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S/1997/466
17 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 JUNE 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolutions 1027 (1996) and 1046 (1996) concerning the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Following the usual consultations, it is my intention to appoint Brigadier-General Bent Sohnemann of Denmark as the Force Commander of UNPREDEP. Brigadier-General Sohnemann will replace Brigadier-General Bo Wranker, who completed his tour of duty on 3 June 1997.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-16362 (E) 170697 180697

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GENERAL

S/1997/467
17 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 11 June 1997 (S/1997/466) regarding your intention to appoint Brigadier-General Bent Sohnemann of Denmark to succeed Brigadier-General Bo Wranker as Force Commander of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They agree with the intention contained in the letter.

(Signed) Sergey LAVROV
President of the Security Council

97-16368 (E) 170697

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16 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (UNMIBH)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 28 of Security Council resolution 1088 (1996) of 12 December 1996. It summarizes the activities of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) since my report of 14 March 1997 (S/1997/224). It also provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the same period.

2. The mission continues to be led by my Special Representative and Coordinator of United Nations Operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Kai Eide (Norway). He is assisted by Mr. Manfred Seitner (Denmark), who serves as the Commissioner of the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF).

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE MISSION

International Police Task Force

3. The authorized strength of IPTF has increased from 1,721 to 2,027 in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1103 (1997) of 31 March 1997, relating to the implementation of the Brcko arbitration award, and 1107 (1997) of 16 May 1997, relating to the additional tasks assigned by the London Conference of the Peace Implementation Council of 4 and 5 December 1996. On 10 June 1997, IPTF had a strength of 1,812 monitors from 38 different countries (see annex). Efforts are continuing with a view to reaching the new authorized strength as quickly as possible.

4. The main goals of the Force continue to be to contribute to the improvement of freedom of movement, to monitor and assist in the establishment of safe conditions for returning refugees and displaced persons, to monitor and assist in the establishment of safe conditions during the forthcoming election campaign and to assist in the restructuring and training of the local police. In this effort, monitoring the activities of the local police has remained a major focus. In addition, investigations are being carried out into allegations of human rights violations by the local police.

5. In order to increase freedom of movement, a new checkpoint policy has been developed by my Special Representative and the IPTF Commissioner in cooperation with the Stabilization Force (SFOR) and the Office of the High Representative and is being introduced. The policy aims to end the practice, common to all parts of the country, that vehicles bearing the licence plates of the other entity, or the other party in the Federation, are regularly stopped and harassed by the local police, thereby preventing the population from exercising its right to move freely around the country. The new policy forbids the local police to hold static checkpoints for longer than 30 minutes, unless prior approval has been obtained from IPTF. The police can apply to IPTF for permits to establish checkpoints based on evidence that they are required for the prevention and reduction of crime and may also establish checkpoints for emergency purposes, provided that IPTF is notified. For implementation, the policy relies on the cooperation of SFOR, which has agreed to assist IPTF in the removal of illegal checkpoints. The Federation Government has endorsed the new checkpoint policy, although local compliance remains unsatisfactory. The Republika Srpska authorities have explicitly refused to accept the new policy. Nonetheless, local police in the Republika Srpska have avoided direct confrontation by abandoning their temporary checkpoints whenever they are approached by joint IPTF/SFOR patrols.

6. In the first three weeks of the new policy, IPTF/SFOR patrols have removed over 40 illegal police checkpoints. Nevertheless, IPTF continues to receive reports of random checks, mainly by the Republika Srpska police. Checkpoints are set up in particular in the area of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line and between areas under the control of the two Federation partners. IPTF is also receiving reports that the harassment of citizens from the other entity, or ethnicity, continues. UNMIBH and SFOR are determined to maintain pressure on the police throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, they continue to work with the authorities of both entities to improve the ability of the local police to combat crime.

7. IPTF has also facilitated freedom of movement by providing advice and guidance to local police on operational issues, as well as by serving as a bridge between the police forces of the Federation and the Republika Srpska. During the reporting period, IPTF ensured close cooperation between the two entities when preparing for the visit of His Holiness the Pope, as well as during the "Hearts to Peace" pilgrimage, the celebrations on "Army Day" and the many graveside visits on the occasion of the Bajram holiday, all of which included travel across the Inter-Entity Boundary Line. This cooperation, together with the overall area security provided by SFOR, ensured that no incidents occurred during those events.

8. In response to the Brcko Implementation Conference of 7 March and Security Council resolution 1103 (1997) of 31 March 1997, in which the Council authorized 186 additional IPTF monitors for Brcko, a full complement of 258 monitors had been deployed in Brcko by 1 June 1997. This quick response was made possible through the redeployment of IPTF officers from other parts of the country pending the arrival of the additional newly recruited officers. IPTF's immediate tasks in Brcko will be to ensure freedom of movement and security for returning refugees and displaced persons and the implementation of a reform programme for the local police. As elsewhere, the success of IPTF's efforts

will depend to a considerable extent on the support provided by SFOR. Several meetings at the highest level of the Republika Srpska government, held by my Special Representative and the IPTF Commissioner, as well as the High Representative and the SFOR Commander, have addressed the issue of the IPTF police reform package in Brcko. Regrettably, owing to the opposition of the Republika Srpska authorities, it has not yet been possible to start this programme.

9. The plan for an integrated Federation Ministry of the Interior has made further progress. Additional training courses for Federation police officers have begun. IPTF has identified a building for the Federation Police Academy in Sarajevo and is working with the Federation Ministry of the Interior on its refurbishment. Following the restructuring of the Sarajevo cantonal police, restructuring efforts were concentrated on the Neretva Canton, which incorporates Mostar. After a prolonged period of negotiations, agreement on the installation of a fully unified Federation police organization was reached on 6 June 1997 by Federation and local Mostar officials. Plans have been made to restructure the remaining eight Federation cantonal police forces by September 1997.

10. A list of equipment, services and training needs required for the national police forces has now been finalized and the first training courses have been initiated in the Federation. The first model police station, at Centar Sarajevo, has been identified and is receiving substantial support from IPTF and the Government of the United States of America. Contributions to the Trust Fund from donor Governments towards the programme for assistance to the local police currently exceed US$ 4 million, but fall well short of the requirements, which remain in excess of US$ 90 million. Additional contributions to the programmes presented in Dublin in September 1996 are urgently required.

11. In its resolution 1107 (1997) of 16 May 1997, the Security Council authorized the addition of 120 IPTF monitors to carry out new tasks assigned by the London Conference. During the reporting period, three further special IPTF investigations were completed with existing monitors, in addition to the investigation of the Mostar incident of 10 February 1997 (see S/1997/204). These new investigations relate to incidents in Gajevi and Brcko, in the Republika Srpska, and in Drvar, in the Federation.

12. The investigation into the failure of the Republika Srpska police to take adequate precautions to prevent the burning of prefabricated Bosniac homes, which occurred in Gajevi in March 1997, concluded that the local police chief and his staff had failed in their duty either to protect the homes or to conduct proper investigations. After pressure was brought to bear on the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior to respond appropriately, the Minister informed IPTF that he had identified 12 culprits, four of whom have now been sentenced to fines by a local court. Nine police officers have been disciplined for failing to perform their duty. No action was taken against the two most senior police officers involved.

13. The IPTF investigation in Brcko established that, on 1 May, the Republika Srpska police had failed to protect a group of Bosniacs who were attacked by a small group of stone-throwers as they were returning to the Federation in two

buses. The investigation also concluded that Republika Srpska police administrators, supervisors and officers had failed to cooperate with IPTF over the incident. As a result, an investigation was undertaken by the Republika Srpska police that was monitored by IPTF. Four local police officers have been disciplined and six civilians are currently under investigation for minor offences.

14. With regard to Drvar, the IPTF report focused on the burning of 24 unoccupied Serb dwellings between November 1996 and April 1997. The report documented that municipal authorities and local police had colluded to prevent the return of Serb displaced persons. It concluded that senior Bosnian Croat police officers had consistently failed to respond professionally to IPTF's frequent requests that high-ranking officials act to halt this pattern of crime. As a result of the IPTF request, the Chief of the Criminal Police Department and the leader of the Anti-Terrorist and Homicide Branch in Drvar have been replaced and the number of reported incidents has been reduced.

15. IPTF is liaising closely with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the Implementation Plan for the September municipal elections. IPTF Election Liaison Officers have been appointed at all levels and have provided support during the registration period, particularly in those areas where fraud in registration and voting lists has been identified. Plans for the training and deployment of IPTF Election Duty Monitors and the local police are in place.

Civil Affairs

16. Civil Affairs continued to support the other elements of the UNMIBH mission and, in particular, IPTF during the period under review through political advice, political reporting, human rights work and confidence-building measures. Steps have been taken to integrate further the various elements of the mission. During the coming period, Civil Affairs will, in addition, become involved in training IPTF officers new to the mission area. As the municipal elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina approach, Civil Affairs will also participate in the OSCE-led effort to create conditions in which voters can make a free and informed choice at the ballot box. In addition, Civil Affairs officers have worked with IPTF to identify areas of possible inter-communal conflict and to initiate political contacts to head off such clashes. Major potential conflicts in the areas of Mostar, Travnik, Vitez, Sanski Most and elsewhere have been successfully avoided thanks to action initiated by Civil Affairs officers.

17. In cooperation with IPTF and other organizations active in the area of human rights, Civil Affairs has focused political efforts on human rights problems in Brcko, Drvar, Jajce and elsewhere. Civil Affairs has intervened with local authorities and has provided case-work which was brought to the attention of the highest authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina by my Special Representative. Particular emphasis has been placed on police behaviour and related human rights abuses that have occurred when persons belonging to one ethnic group sought to return to homes located in areas currently controlled by authorities of a different group.

18. In addition to nurturing inter-communal contacts on its own initiative, Civil Affairs has continued to provide good offices in parts of the country in which there are no other representatives of the international community. In central Bosnia, for instance, Civil Affairs has chaired seminars on the subject of governance in a federal environment prepared by Swiss experts and officials, which were attended by Bosniac and Croat authorities.

The Legal Office

19. The UNMIBH Legal Office has been supporting IPTF in the implementation of its mandate in relation to the criminal justice system by working with an international expert team on the re-drafting of the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure for the Federation; by reviewing model police protocols drafted by the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme (ICITAP); by advising on the development of mechanisms to document non-compliance of law enforcement officials; by sponsoring a planning workshop on criminal justice reform for international agencies providing programmes; by advising on the development of an administrative review procedure for police certification; and by providing advice on the interpretation of the General Framework Agreement and international standards. In addition, the UNMIBH Legal Office routinely provides advice to IPTF personnel in the field on general questions of local law.

Mine Action Centre

20. During the past three months the Mine Action Centre (MAC) has made substantial progress in the implementation of its 1997 programme, although the scale of the programme had to be cut back because of insufficient funding.

21. On 26 May, training courses for 135 Bosnian deminers, organized by MAC, began in Banja Luka, Tuzla and Mostar. These deminers are the first of those who will be deployed on priority tasks by MAC starting in late June before being integrated into the Government structures when MAC facilities are transferred to the Bosnia and Herzegovina Commission for Demining in December 1997. If funds become available, up to 1,200 deminers will be trained, deployed and transferred to the Government structures at the end of the year.

22. Regional offices of MAC are now fully operational in Banja Luka, Bihac, Mostar and Tuzla. In addition to running the training programmes, the regional offices work with the local authorities and the multinational divisions of SFOR to collect more information about the location of minefields, to set priorities for the mine clearance operations, to promote mine awareness in the areas of the country most affected by mines and to coordinate all mine clearance operations in the regions.

23. MAC continues to cooperate with external agencies. A contract has been signed with an international non-governmental organization for the development of a 30-man demining team in Bihac. In addition, MAC has received 17 technical experts made available by the Governments of Austria, Canada, France, Norway and Sweden. Additional experts are expected by the end of June from Germany and Switzerland. These experts are working on training programmes and on monitoring of operations. MAC continues to assist the European Commission, the World Bank,

Norwegian Peoples' Aid and other organizations participating in the Mine Action Plan with their respective demining programmes. Liaison with SFOR and its activities in support of mine lifting by the armies of the former warring factions has been strengthened.

24. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Commission for Demining, established following the London Conference of the Peace Implementation Council in December 1996, has met regularly and taken decisions in line with its mandate. It has submitted a number of reports to the Council of Ministers. Action by the latter to endorse the Commission's reports and to establish a budget for its operations is now a matter of great urgency. Meanwhile, the Governments of the Federation and the Republika Srpska have established project implementation units at both central and regional levels to manage the implementation of World Bank-funded projects.

25. Tragically, the arrival of spring weather and the return of displaced persons and refugees has led to a sharp increase in the number of civilian mine casualties and fatalities reported. This figure has now reportedly doubled to approximately 90 incidents per month and, as more refugees return during the summer, it can be expected that the number will rise further. The demand from municipalities and communities for help with mine clearance is growing correspondingly. It is anticipated that by July 1997 a total of 700 deminers will be engaged in mine clearance for the organizations participating in the Mine Action Plan. This is well short of the basic requirement of 2,000 deminers identified in the United Nations consolidated appeal for 1997.

26. MAC itself faces an immediate funding crisis. Contributions were received in 1996 and early 1997 from the Governments of Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the European Commission, together with in-kind support from the Government of the United States of America. However, even at a reduced level of operation, these funds are expected to be exhausted next month. In view of the delays in the receipt of funds, the revised requirement for 1997 has been set at US$ 23 million, a modest amount considering the enormous benefits to the people of Bosnia which will result. Support from donor Governments is now urgently required.

Trust Fund Unit

27. The Trust Fund Unit, established under Security Council resolution 900 (1994), was transferred to UNMIBH from the Office of the Special Coordinator for Sarajevo in May 1996. Guided by terms of reference which cover the "reconstruction of essential services" in Sarajevo, the Unit continues to monitor the implementation of 52 large-scale infrastructure projects initiated under the Sarajevo Trust Fund programme, which has disbursed over US$ 13 million for projects primarily in the sectors of public transport, public utilities and building reconstruction. The Unit also manages the Quick Impact Fund. With nearly 90 projects in progress, this fund has distributed over US$ 2.4 million, mainly towards the renovation of educational facilities, repair to gas and water delivery systems and support to municipal authorities in Sarajevo.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

28. The Office for Coordination of Emergency Agricultural Interventions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) identifies beneficiaries for humanitarian assistance in the agricultural sector; assesses needs for relief; provides technical advice to non-governmental organizations and other agencies and coordinates their activities. The office also organizes monthly joint task force meetings with international agencies and the responsible local authorities.

29. Limited funds have restricted FAO's spring 1997 campaign to emergency assistance amounting to US$ 135,000 for seeds, hand tools, fertilizers and crop protection chemicals in the Gorazde area. In addition, the FAO coordination project has distributed donations from Germany to the Neretva Canton municipalities.

United Nations Children's Fund

30. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has progressed from emergency relief to long-term reconstruction and development assistance with an emphasis on training service providers and policy makers to meet the needs of children in the post-war period. In the health sector, UNICEF focuses its activities on children under the age of five who have not completed their primary vaccination schedule. In education, UNICEF is sponsoring monthly round tables to facilitate communication between the Federal and Cantonal Ministries of Education and to develop long-term training plans for the development of school psychological and special pedagogical services. UNICEF's Safe Water Supply project ensures that some 500,000 people each receive a minimum of 80 litres of potable water and trains the Water Management Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina on new technology. In cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World bank, UNICEF is assisting the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare in dealing with child mental health services.

United Nations Development Programme

31. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Cooperation Framework for 1997-1999 was formally approved in May 1997. The focus remains on area-based development; support to national sectoral reconstruction programmes; and policy advisory support to the Government. Thirty-two projects totalling US$ 25.1 million are ongoing or have recently been approved. The European Commission has recently agreed to make an additional US$ 11 million available for reconstruction activities and has given its approval to an emergency employment programme which will focus on the municipalities identified by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as target areas for the return of refugees in 1997.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

32. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) focused on the following four major projects during the reporting

period: (a) preparation of a rehabilitation plan for the old town of Mostar which, it is anticipated, will be written into the town plan; (b) an exercise in the Republika Srpska to help the authorities establish priorities in school reconstruction; (c) an increase of the administrative and planning capacity of both the education administration of the Middle Bosnia Canton and the Federal Ministry of Education and Culture; and (d) supporting the efforts of Bosnia's National TV 99 to extend its broadcasting area by financing the raising of the station's transmission tower, and helping small independent media in the Republika Srpska by contributing communications equipment.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

33. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1997/57, extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur through March 1998. Following the resignation of the United Nations Expert on Missing Persons, the Special Rapporteur has assumed added responsibility for the problem of missing persons. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organized one mission of the Special Rapporteur to Herzegovina and the Sarajevo region during the current reporting period.

34. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights continues to participate in efforts aimed at strengthening cooperation between human rights agencies, in particular the Human Rights Coordination Centre of the Office of the High Representative. Human rights experts from the office continue to supervise a trial monitoring project and participate in other activities aimed at strengthening the rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

35. During the period under review, UNHCR continued its efforts to implement annex 7 of the Dayton Peace Agreement. On 23 April, at a meeting of the Humanitarian Issues Working Group in Geneva, the Office presented a working plan entitled Repatriation and Return Operation 1997, which received broad support from the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the asylum countries and the international community. The document, which forms the basis of UNHCR's action in 1997 and 1998, provides a policy framework for repatriation and return movements, as well as for assistance to be provided to facilitate repatriation and return movements. It also contains a range of proposed activities and solutions to the problems of Bosnian refugees and internally displaced persons.

36. It is estimated that, by 31 May 1997, 27,900 refugees had returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina, 6,424 of them in an organized fashion. Most of these refugees returned to majority areas.

37. Efforts to provide greater scope for minority returns were made through the "open cities" initiative. Building upon grass-roots initiatives, UNHCR and its partners offer support and material assistance to villages and municipalities which volunteer to declare themselves "open cities" by welcoming previous residents from all ethnic communities who wish to return to their former homes. UNHCR is now seeking to ensure that authorities in the Entities follow through on their commitment to the open city concept, which was announced in a joint

statement issued on 21 March 1997, and that they continue their support for returns to the Zone of Separation.

38. In related activities, UNHCR has set up legal aid centres in Tuzla, Mostar, Bosanska Krupa and Zenica. Information centres for returnees and displaced persons have been established in the Tuzla-Podrinje Canton and in the Mostar region. The Repatriation Information Centre has also become operational. To further promote the freedom of movement of people, UNHCR has continued to expand and improve the services of the bus lines which traverse the Inter-Entity Boundary Line. By May 1997, UNHCR was operating 11 bus lines between key municipalities of the Federation and the Republika Srpska, including a new line to and from Brcko. Since the project began in May 1996, the lines have transported nearly 340,000 passengers. Assessment visits to homes of origin continued.

39. UNHCR has also devoted considerable efforts to the following activities: community services, with special emphasis on the elderly, children and youth and severely traumatized persons; and small-scale income-generating activities and local capacity-building for public institutions and non-governmental organizations. UNHCR's procurement of domestic items fully shifted to support of the local market. The impact of the Bosnian Women's Initiative through May 1997 was significant as it received numerous applications from women's groups and non-governmental organizations in the Federation and the Republika Srpska. Funding for 65 projects was approved during the period. These community-based projects target the most vulnerable women through income generation, micro-credit, food production, skills training and information sharing. The Initiative has contributed to empowering women and creating a ground for reconciliation.

World Bank

40. The World Bank's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to implement the reconstruction programme approved by the international community at the Brussels conference in December 1995. The Bank is also helping Bosnia and Herzegovina introduce reform in the economic system to permit a more market-friendly economic development. A total of US$ 350 million in World Bank funds has been mobilized in 16 specific projects to date. In addition, a fund of US$ 150 million is being managed by the Bank for co-financing these projects. The value of the projects prepared by the Bank, now in implementation phase, exceeds US$ 1 billion. As of mid-March 1997, contracts signed using World Bank-administered funds totalled 1,525, for a value of US$ 230 million.

41. The World Bank continues to help coordinate the work of donors participating in the reconstruction programme. Particular support has been provided to UNHCR for its priority refugee return programme. The Bank has been able to mobilize substantial resources to rebuild houses in the UNHCR target zones and to implement job-creation programmes and other schemes for infrastructure development. Other agencies playing a key role with the World Bank in coordinating reconstruction are: FAO, UNESCO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). These agencies lead reconstruction task forces set up by the World Bank covering

agriculture, health, water and employment. The World Bank and UNDP have closely coordinated programmes, resulting in an excellent leverage of UNDP efforts.

World Food Programme

42. The World Food Programme (WFP) has continued to implement its 1997 strategy for phasing down food aid, including the full reassessment of the beneficiary caseload in conjunction with the local authorities. It is building up a register of the vulnerable who are in need of humanitarian support and de-selecting those beneficiaries who are now able to support themselves and their families. In February, the beneficiary caseload was 1,780,002; by June this figure will have been reduced by 25 per cent to 1,337,817. Of this total, 320,004 people have been identified as most vulnerable and are receiving a higher ration. The assessment process is continuing and this figure will rise over the coming months. At the end of May, a WFP-led Joint Food Aid Needs Assessment Mission started visiting all parts of the country. This mission is assessing the need for continued food aid and reviewing the targeting approach.

43. WFP has begun using food aid to support a number of small-scale, short-term socio-economic rehabilitation projects aimed at helping beneficiaries in the transition away from free food hand-outs by creating employment, supporting training and promoting self-sufficiency. In addition, WFP continues to support the milling industry in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Wheat grain donated by the United States of America is being processed at six mills and further donations of grain are expected from Canada and Italy. In May, WFP began a rehabilitation project at the Bihac Mill to repair war-damaged infrastructure and replace machinery.

World Health Organization

44. The World Health Organization (WHO) has succeeded in re-establishing communications among health professionals from various communities in many areas. The reform and reconstruction of the health system also continues to progress, even in the face of reticence from the political authorities. In the Federation, a working draft of the Strategic Plan for Health System Reform is expected to be completed in June. In addition, the Republika Srpska's Strategic Plan for Health System Reform has been completed and will be presented shortly to the Republika Srpska Assembly for parliamentary approval.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

45. I warmly welcome the conclusions of the Peace Implementation Council Ministerial Steering Board, held at Sintra, Portugal, on 30 May 1997 (see S/1997/434), at which the Governments of the countries members of the Steering Board agreed to take strong measures in support of United Nations priority concerns, including freedom of movement, police reform, refugee return and compliance with the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

46. The ability of IPTF and other branches of the United Nations to operate effectively in Bosnia and Herzegovina depends largely upon the presence on the ground of a credible military force. Cooperation between SFOR and the United

Nations is presently excellent. It is in large part owing to the support provided by SFOR that IPTF has been able to make progress recently. Any serious erosion of the credibility of the military component would have an immediate and negative impact on key United Nations operations. In particular, the withdrawal or large-scale reduction of SFOR would render the position of IPTF in Bosnia and Herzegovina largely untenable and would affect negatively other vital United Nations operations, such as those of UNHCR. This situation, in which civilian work can only progress in the context of the continued presence of a credible international military force, is expected to continue for at least the coming year, i.e., during the consolidation period.

47. Another indispensable element to the success of the civilian operation is the willingness of Member States to intervene at the political level. This was demonstrated clearly in the case of IPTF's investigations into alleged human rights abuses by the local police forces. Following the release of the IPTF report on an attack perpetrated by the Bosnian Croat police in Mostar and the issuance of a presidential statement by the Security Council, one Member State intervened with the Bosnian Croat authorities and with those of the Republic of Croatia. That intervention, coupled with United Nations action on the ground, can be credited with bringing about positive changes in Mostar. While the situation in the city remains difficult, it is undeniable that it has improved significantly.

48. The agreement on the Neretva Canton Police, which involved long negotiations to resolve difficult political issues between the Federation partners, illustrates a welcome trend towards cooperation and problem solving. This improved climate provides the context for the next phase of IPTF activity, particularly in the area of police reform.

49. On the other hand, the refusal of the Republika Srpska Government to cooperate fully with IPTF in the implementation of its mandate is a matter of great concern. A concerted effort by the international community is required to ensure compliance by the Government of the Republika Srpska with all elements of annex 11 to the General Framework Agreement for Peace.

50. Finally, I wish to stress that, in addition to political support required from Governments, financial support, both for the Police Assistance Programme and for the Mine Action Centre, is urgently required to enable the mission to accomplish its goals.

Annex

Composition of the International Police Task Force as of 10 June 1997*

Argentina	64
Austria	28
Bangladesh	30
Bulgaria	46
Canada	20
Chile	14
Denmark	37
Egypt	34
Estonia	9
Finland	19
France	120
Germany	166
Ghana	87
Greece	9
Hungary	31
India	95
Indonesia	18
Ireland	35
Italy	23
Jordan	136
Malaysia	47
Nepal	43
Netherlands	60
Nigeria	16
Norway	10
Pakistan	79
Poland	20
Portugal	60
Russian Federation	20
Senegal	32
Spain	46
Sweden	40
Switzerland	4
Tunisia	3
Turkey	27
Ukraine	39
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	30
United States of America	215
Total	1 812

* The number of civilian police monitors may vary owing to rotations.

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S/1997/469
17 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following instances of violations by Iraq of the terms of the ceasefire between the two countries.

1. On 3 November 1996, at 2230 hours, a number of anti-revolutionary elements supported by Iraq infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 7460020400 on the map of Helala. They fired at the post of the Iranian boundary police from 500 metres to the east of the northern Helala border sentry post, between border pillars 35/18 and 35/17. Upon the response of the Iranian boundary police, they fled back into Iraqi territory.

2. On 12 November 1996, at 0730 hours, a number of Iraqi forces aboard 11 light and heavy vehicles and 1 tank were deployed at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 3300058000, on the map of Naft-Shahr, south-west of border pillar 45/1.

3. On 12 November 1996, at 1020 hours, Iraqi forces deployed 350 soldiers around the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 3300058000, on the map of Naft-Shahr Jonoobi, west of border pillar 46. This deployment and replacement of troops lasted till 1200 hours on 13 November 1996, around the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 3310058500 and 38S NC 4400056700, on the map of Naft-Shahr Jonoobi, west of border pillars 45 and 45/1.

4. On 14 November 1996, at 1300 hours, a group of Iraqi forces entered no man's land and visited the Mandaria customs office at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4200004000, on the map of Khosravi. They left the area at 1350 hours.

5. On 15 November 1996, at 0730 hours, around 200 Iraqi troops, aboard several vehicles, conducted a military exercise at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 3500003000, on the map of Khosravi, around the Khaneghain silo.

6. On 15 November 1996, at 0900 hours, an Iranian dhow came under fire by Iraqi troops at the geographic coordinates of 39R TP 5000039000 on the map of

Khosro-abad, east of Koot-e-Zaer Moslem, opposite Khosro-abad in the Islamic Republic of Iran. One member of dhow's crew was injured.

7. On 15 November 1996, at 1725 hours, the Iraqi troops, stationed at the Mandaria sentry post located at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi, in no man's land, installed a machine-gun on the rooftop of the post.

8. On 15 November 1996, seven Iraqi armed shepherds who had infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4700072000 on the map of Sizdah were observed tending sheep.

9. On 17 November 1996, at 1310 hours, six Iraqi soldiers aboard a white patrol vehicle visited the area located at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4100063000 on the map of Naft-Shahr, in no man's land and south of the Irãqi Waterwheel sentry post.

10. On 17 November 1996, two Iraqi cranes were observed working around the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5500035000 on the map of Gharb-Jofeir-2, in no man's land, south of border pillar 14/A2.

11. On 18 November 1996, at 1000 hours, four Iraqi shepherds were observed tending sheep at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4400054000 on the map of the area south of Naft-Shahr, south of border pillars 44/10 and 44/11.

12. On 18 November 1996, at 1030 hours, four Iraqi troops aboard a vehicle crossed into no man's land and entered the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi.

13. On 19 November 1996, six Iraqi vehicles were observed patrolling between the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 6760016700 on the map of Kani Sheikh, the Iraqi village of Mokhibar and the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 7120022200, west of border pillar 39 in no man's land.

14. On 19 November 1996, four Iraqi vehicles were observed patrolling between the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5449931600 on the map of Kani Sheikh, west of Havasi of Iraq and the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5590035400 on the map of Sumar, west of border pillar 40/3.

15. On 24 November 1996, at 1730 hours, Iraqi troops stationed at the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 embarked on a defence-of-the-post exercise.

16. On 25 November 1996, a number of Iraqi vehicles were observed moving along the roads leading to the Shahabia and Abziadi sentry posts at the geographic coordinates of 38S PB 1200045000 on the map of the area south of Mehran and south of border pillars 27/9 and 27/10.

17. On 26 November 1996, at 1315 hours, four Iraqi officers visited the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/2 in no man's land.

18. On 27 November 1996, 43 Iraqi motor boats, six dhows and tugboats carrying 12 individuals were observed patrolling in the Arvand Rud.

19. On 28 November 1996, at 0730 hours, an Iraqi excavating shaft was observed at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5100035000 on the map of Sumar, west of border pillar 40/3.

20. On 28 November 1996, Iraqi troops stationed at the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4230005500, on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/2 in no man's land, embarked on a defence-of-the-post exercise.

21. On 28 November 1996, an Iraqi mechanical shovel was observed digging a canal around the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4100004100 on the map of Khosravi, south-east of border pillar 53/2.

22. On 29 November 1996, at 0900 hours, an Iraqi mechanical shovel was observed excavating around the geographic coordinates of 38S NB 9600066000 on the map of Mehran, west of Golabdara and border pillar 31.

23. On 29 November 1996, 135 Iraqi motor boats, 7 dhows and tugboats, carrying 350 individuals, were observed patrolling in the Arvand river.

24. On 30 November 1996, eight Iraqi boats, carrying 16 individuals, in the area west of Gharb-Jofeir at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5500044000 on the map of Gharb-Jofeir-2, north-west of border pillar 14/A3, opened fire at the Iranian boundary police positioned on the Ghamar-Banihashem road at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5900046000 on the map of Gharb-Jofeir-2, north-east of border pillar 14/A3. They fled the area after the response of the Iranian boundary police.

25. On 1 December 1996, at 1700 hours, four Iraqi forces aboard a vehicle entered the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land. After visiting the area for 40 minutes, they left for Mandali.

26. On 1 December 1996, an Iraqi vehicle carrying seven individuals was observed moving from the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5000036000 on the map of Sumar, west of border pillar 40/4, towards the geographic coordinates 38S NC 5200041000, west of Cheshma-Maggi and north-west of Miantang-Dara and border pillar 42.

27. On 1 December 1996, four Iraqi boats, carrying eight individuals, were observed at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5500049000 on the map of Gharb-Jofeir-2, south of border pillar 14/A5, in no man's land.

28. On 3 December 1996, at 1400 hours, five Iraqi shepherds were observed tending sheep at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4000063000 on the map of Naft-Shahr, south-west of the Iraqi Waterwheel post, opposite Naft-Shahr in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in no man's land.

29. On 3 December 1996, three Iraqi vehicles carrying a number of Iraqi armed smugglers were observed moving around the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 6200027000 on the map of Ghasr-e-Shirin, north of Majid-Ghadir-Agha.

30. On 5 December 1996, at 0800 hours, 26 Iraqi troops were seen attending military training at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 3900012700 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 56/1, north-west of Darband-Joogh in the Islamic Republic of Iran between the Iraqi sentry posts of Al-Meghdad and Al-Hossein on the north and south respectively.

31. On 7 December 1996, 40 Iraqi motor boats and 14 tugboats, carrying 325 individuals, were observed patrolling in the Arvand Rud.

32. On 8 December 1996, at 0950 hours, two Iraqi armed shepherds were observed tending sheep at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4510054400 on the map of Naft-Shahr Jonoobi, south of border pillar 44/9.

33. On 9 December 1996, seven Iraqi troops were seen digging embankment at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4150009900 on the map of Khosravi, in no man's land, south of the Iraqi Al-Meghdad sentry post, north and south, respectively, of border pillars 54, 55, 55/1 and 55/2.

34. On 11 December 1996, at 1450 hours, an Iraqi motor boat, carrying four individuals intending to approach the coast of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Arvand Rud, retreated following the response of the Iranian border police.

35. On 12 December 1996, 65 Iraqi motor boats and 2 tugboats, carrying 150 individuals, were observed patrolling in the Arvand Rud.

36. On 13 December 1996, at 1500 hours, the Iranian border police intercepted a number of Iraqi elements who had infiltrated into Iranian territory at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 6800026000 on the map of Ghasr-e-Shirin, north-east of border pillar 60/3, in no man's land. The infiltrators fled back into Iraqi territory, leaving behind one Kalashnikov rifle.

37. On 13 December 1996, at 1515 hours, three high-ranking Iraqi officers aboard a jeep visited the Iraqi Al-Hossein sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4270015000, north of border pillar 57/5, in no man's land.

38. On 13 December 1996, Iranian maritime forces intercepted 15 Iraqi fishing dhows engaged in fishing in the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Ghassemia river, 5 kilometres north of the Ghamija sentry post. The dhows were heading towards the Iranian coast and were seized therein.

39. On 13 December 1996, Iraqi troops constructed an embankment at the geographic coordinates of 39R TP 1800074000 on the map of Khorramshahr, south of border pillar 1/9, in no man's land.

40. On 16 December 1996, 18 Iraqi vehicles, carrying 100 Iraqi troops, stopped at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 5420024500 on the map of Ghasr-e-Shirin, north of Pirooz-Khan in Iraq.

41. On 16 December 1996, 25 Iraqi vehicles armed with Dushka rifles were observed at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 6100027000 on the map of Ghasr-e-Shirin, north of Barar-Aziz and Majid-Ghadir-Agha.

42. On 17 December 1996, at 0958 hours, two Iraqi helicopters were observed flying, in the Iraqi airspace, towards Naft-Khaneh in Iraq at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4900051000 on the map of Sumar, north-west of border pillar 44/5, in no man's land.

43. On 17 December 1996, at 1715 hours, Iraqi troops stationed at the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 4270005000 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land, installed a Dushka rifle on the roof of the post.

44. On 18 December 1996, at 1055 hours, four Iraqi soldiers installed an air defence cannon at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4220067700 on the map of Naft-Shahr, north of Naftkhaneh in Iraq. The cannon was moved from the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4220067100 on the map of Naft-Shahr, west of Naftkhaneh in Iraq.

45. On 19 December 1996, at 2400 hours, an Iranian fishing motor boat was stolen by the Iraqis who had infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran around the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5900052000 on the map of Gharb-Jofeir, south of border pillar 14/A5.

46. On 21 December 1996, at 1200 hours, Iraqi troops made a cleavage in the embankment located at the geographic coordinates 39R TP 210072800 on the map of Khorramshahr, opposite the Khaein river and border pillars 1 and 1/1, in no man's land.

47. On 27 December 1996, at 1430 hours, 11 Iraqi heavy engineering vehicles and trucks were observed constructing a road at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5200061000 on the map of the area south of Hoor Al-Hovaiza, to the north and south respectively of border pillars 14/A5 and 14B.

48. On 27 December 1996, at 1430 hours, an Iraqi loader, a bulldozer, a roller and eight trucks were observed constructing a road at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5500061000 on the map of the area south of Hoor Al-Hovaiza, north of border pillar 14/A5, in no man's land.

49. On 28 December 1996, at 1410 hours, five Iraqi trucks and a loader were observed excavating at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5500067000 on the map of the area south of Hoor Al-Hovaiza, south of border pillar 14/B, in no man's land.

50. On 29 December 1996, at 1200 hours, Iraqi troops constructed a base for 12 individuals around the geographic coordinates of 39R 1350013800 on the map of Hosseinia, to the north and south, respectively, of the border pillars, 7/20 and 7/21, in no man's land.

51. On 29 December 1996, at 1630 hours, a number of Iraqi armed smugglers crossed the border at the Ahangaran heights and opened fire at the Iranian

border police. As a result, an Iranian soldier stationed at the Iranian Tang-Hamam sentry post was injured. The Iraqi armed smugglers were then forced to flee back into Iraqi territory.

52. On 30 December 1996, at 0400 hours, two Iraqi motor boats opened fire at the Iranian border police based around Hoor Al-Hovaiza. They fled back into Iraqi territory when faced with the response of the Iranian border police.

53. On 30 December 1996, at 0900 hours, two Iraqi soldiers were observed digging a canal around the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5300039000 on the map of Sumar, west of border pillar 40/5.

54. On 29 December 1996, at 1430 hours, five Iraqi military vehicles, two armed with machine-guns, were moving along the border strip north of Shalamchah towards the Shalamchah sentry post. Upon reaching the main road, they headed towards Iraq. During this movement of troops, the Iraqi troops stationed at the border were on alert.

55. On 30 December 1996, at 0400 hours, the crew aboard two Iraqi motor boats opened fire at one of the Iranian police bases in the Hoor Al-Hovaiza area. Upon the response of the Iranian police, they fled back into Iraqi territory.

56. On 30 December 1996, at 1000 hours, a number of Iraqi troops were seen constructing an observation post at the geographic coordinates of 39R TP 6700013000 on the map of Alishahr river, north of Ras Al-Bisha, opposite Abtar river.

57. On 30 December 1996, at 1500 hours, five Iraqi soldiers were observed repairing an abandoned embankment around the geographic coordinates of 39R TP 1500018000 on the map of Nim-Eistgah-Hosseinia, east of border pillar 7/24.

58. On 30 December 1996, 40 Iraqi soldiers aboard eight vehicles were observed moving around the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 5300034000 on the map of Ghasr-e-Shirin, south-east of Chia-Sorkh in Iraq and north of Gomrok-Kohna and Majid-Salar in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

59. On 31 December 1996, at 1630 hours, the Iraqi troops increased the number of their personnel by 10 soldiers at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5500062000 on the map of the area of south of Hoor Al-Hovaiza, in no man's land, north of border pillar 14/A5 and south of border pillar 14B and at the geographic coordinates of 38R QV 5500057000 and 38R QV 5500056000 on the map of the area west of Jofeir-2, in no man's land, north of border pillar 14/A5.

It would be highly appreciated if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/926
S/1997/470
18 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 17 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 June 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Huseyin E. Çelem
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-16520 (E) 180697

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ANNEX

Letter dated 16 June 1997 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 4 June 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus" (A/51/916-S/1997/435).

I wish to state categorically that the claims put forward in the said letter are totally false and malicious, as such overflights did not occur. These allegations appear to be part of a general campaign of disinformation being carried out by the Greek Cypriot side in order to create an unfavourable image of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot side, particularly on the eve of the direct talks to be held between the two leaders in early July.

Notwithstanding the above, I wish to reiterate that, as I have repeatedly stated in my previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 2 May 1997 (A/51/888-S/1997/350), the subject of flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a matter which is totally within the competence and jurisdiction of the appropriate authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and the Greek Cypriot side has no say in it whatsoever.

It is regrettable that the Greek Cypriot side, obviously not content with merely distorting events for propaganda purposes, should also be fabricating them. While this kind of behaviour may pay short-term dividends to the Greek Cypriot side, it clearly serves no other purpose than further embittering the relations between the two communities and harming prospects for a future settlement.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/471
18 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JUNE 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention, with specific reference to the question of an enhanced presence of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Eastern Slavonia (Croatia), a statement by the Ministers of the OSCE Troika issued at Copenhagen on 10 April 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Theis TRUELSEN
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

97-16527 (E) 180697

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Annex

Statement issued by the Ministers of the Troika of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe at Copenhagen on 10 April 1997

The Ministers of the Troika of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Foreign Ministers of Poland, Switzerland and Denmark, met today in Copenhagen.

On the situation in Albania the Ministers expressed their support for an OSCE presence. They confirmed that the OSCE stands ready to provide a framework for coordinating the international effort and encouraged the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Dr. Vranitzky, to continue his work in this regard. They welcomed the speedy decision of the United Nations Security Council to authorize the deployment of a multinational protection force to Albania and expressed their support for those countries offering to participate in such a force.

The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of a timely conduct of the local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and of securing a sound financial basis for the OSCE preparation and conduct of them. They expressed their appreciation to former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Mrs. Agnelli, for accepting the tasks of Personal Representative in charge of fund raising. Recalling the paramount importance of those elections for the future peaceful development of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the commitment made at the Lisbon summit, they encouraged all OSCE member States to contribute to this effort.

The Ministers found that the situation in Belarus still gave grounds for serious concern. The Ministers expressed their expectation of a constructive Belarusian follow-up to the report from the European Union Fact-Finding Mission. They expressed their satisfaction that a visit by the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office to Minsk would now take place. They reiterated the willingness of OSCE to assist in facilitating democratic reform.

The Ministers agreed to continue the preparation of an enhanced OSCE presence in Eastern Slavonia (Croatia) after the departure of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium in order to ensure long-term monitoring of human rights.

In the context of the regional engagement of OSCE, the Ministers agreed that a general OSCE-budget reform was urgently needed to bring resources in line with operational decisions.

The Chairman-in-Office informed the Troika of his recent meetings with representatives of the Government and opposition of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Troika expressed concern over the lack of dialogue on democratic reform in Serbia and expressed support for the continued effort by the Chairman-in-Office to promote such a dialogue. The Ministers urged the Belgrade Government to cooperate with the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Max van der Stoel, in dealing with the Kosovo issue.

The Ministers discussed the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Ministers welcomed the recent declaration of the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on promoting inter-ethnic trust and respect. They underlined the need for all parties to engage in a constructive inter-ethnic dialogue aiming at solutions based upon OSCE principles and full respect for the Constitution.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/472
19 June 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America:
draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997,

Recalling the statement of 13 March 1997 of its President on the situation in Albania (S/PRST/1997/14),

Taking note of the letter of 16 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/464),

Taking note also of the sixth report to the Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania (S/1997/460),

Taking note of Decision 160 by the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) of 27 March 1997 (S/1997/259, annex II), including to provide the coordinating framework within which other international organizations can play their part in their respective areas of competence,

Expressing appreciation for the neutral and impartial way in which the Council mandate has been carried out by the multinational protection force, in close cooperation with the Albanian authorities,

Reiterating its concern over the situation in Albania,

Underlining the need for all concerned to refrain from hostilities and acts of violence, and calling on the parties involved to continue the political dialogue and facilitate the electoral process,

Stressing the importance of regional stability and, in this context, fully supporting the diplomatic efforts of the international community, particularly

the OSCE and the European Union, to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and assist in the electoral process in Albania, in cooperation with the Albanian authorities,

Taking note of the need over a short period of time, as underlined in the sixth report on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania, for a limited increase in the contingent originally planned, for the purpose of protecting the OSCE mission, especially in view of the planned elections,

Reaffirming the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Albania,

Determining that the present situation in Albania constitutes a threat to peace and security in the region,

1. Condemns all acts of violence, and calls for their immediate end;

2. Welcomes the readiness of the countries contributing to the multinational protection force to maintain their military contingents in Albania for a limited time as part of the multinational protection force in the framework of the mandate provided by resolution 1101 (1997);

3. Further welcomes the intention of the countries contributing to the multinational protection force to continue, within the framework of the mandate provided by resolution 1101 (1997), to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance, and takes note of all the elements contained in the sixth report to the Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania, concerning, inter alia, the electoral monitoring mission of the OSCE-Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;

4. Authorizes the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to conduct the operation in a neutral and impartial way to achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 3 above and, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, further authorizes these Member States to ensure the security and freedom of movement of the personnel of the multinational protection force;

5. Calls upon all those concerned in Albania to cooperate with the multinational protection force and with the missions of the international organizations;

6. Decides that the operation will be limited to a period of forty-five days from 28 June 1997, at which time the Council will assess the situation on the basis of the reports referred to in paragraph 9 below;

7. Decides that the cost of implementing this temporary operation will be borne by the participating Member States;

8. Encourages the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to cooperate closely with the Government of Albania, the United

Nations, the OSCE, the European Union and all international organizations involved in rendering humanitarian assistance in Albania;

9. Requests the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports to the Council through the Secretary-General, at least every two weeks, the first such report to be made no later than 14 days after the adoption of this resolution, inter alia specifying the parameters and modalities of the operation on the basis of consultations between those Member States and the Government of Albania;

10. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/473
19 June 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 18 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 18 June 1997 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister states that on 18 June 1997 a joint Special Commission/International Atomic Energy Agency inspection team searched monasteries and churches in Baghdad on the basis of a written order from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, Ambassador Rolf Ekéus, and that this represents an affront to the places of worship of Iraqi Christians.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-16626 (E) 190697 190697

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Annex

Letter dated 18 June 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you hereunder of the actions of the Special Commission and of its Executive Chairman, Mr. Rolf Ekéus, on 18 June 1997.

1. At 1625 hours on 17 June, the Chief Inspector of the EG-6 import/export monitoring group at the Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre (BMVC) contacted the Iraqi side with the information that his activity for 18 June would be a surprise visit setting out from the Canal Hotel at 0900 hours. On completing his own task for 17 June, the Chief Inspector of the nuclear group also informed the escorts of a surprise visit to take place at the same time.

2. At 0900 hours on 18 June, the Iraqi escorts were waiting for the two teams at the entrance to the Canal Hotel. They were nevertheless surprised when it transpired that the inspection groups had five cars instead of two. It subsequently became clear that a number of the members of monitoring groups at the BMVC had been added to the nuclear and import/export groups without prior notice.

3. At 0930 hours the monitoring groups arrived in Za'faraniyah, in an area where there are the following installations:

(a) Za'faraniyah telephone exchange;

(b) Za'faraniyah cinema and theatre;

(c) Saint Joseph's Monastery, with Saint Paul's Church;

(d) Sayyidat al-Sanabil Convent;

(e) A dormitory for students at the Institute of Technology;

(f) A cinematographic store and laboratory belonging to the Department of Cinema and Theatre of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

The Canadian Chief Inspector, George Healey of the International Atomic Energy Agency, handed the representative of the National Monitoring Directorate a notification of inspection dated 28 January 1997 and signed by Rolf Ekéus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission (see attachment).

4. At 0950 hours the team divided into three groups, and an inspection was carried out of the telephone exchange, the dormitory, the theatre, the cinema and the laboratory belonging to the Ministry of Information. In this tour, the team used a radiation detector and a device for detecting the presence of chemicals.

5. At 1030 hours the Special Commission team entered Saint Joseph's Monastery with the radiation detector and began to carry out a radiometric survey of the

gardens and grounds. The team members then entered all of the buildings with the radiation detector, asking what was the nature of the rooms and the number of employees and when the monastery had been built. They asked to be introduced to the priest and the sister on the pretext of wanting to make their acquaintance. When the inspection was over, they asked them if they had any problems! Their answer was in the negative. It should be noted that there were in the monastery church at that time pupils having lessons on Christian religious doctrine.

6. At 1100 hours George Healey, the radiation detector with him, entered the Sayyidat al-Sanabil Convent and met the sister present there at that time. She indicated to him that she was not the mother superior. The representative of the Iraqi side pointed out to the Chief Inspector that what the team members were doing was an affront to places of worship Chief Inspector Healey nevertheless insisted on carrying out an immediate inspection, and he entered the convent and conducted a radiometric survey in the grounds and inside the buildings in the same manner as before.

It came to us as a great shock to hear the statement of Rolf Ekéus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, absolving himself of the disgraceful act committed by the inspection team against places of worship in Baghdad.

The inspection team carried out this action in compliance with a written order from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, Rolf Ekéus. Even supposing that Mr. Ekéus had not known what the team was doing, it could not be any the less shocking, because that would mean that inspection teams can act in a purposefully detached manner in accordance with instructions from sources other than the Special Commission. The present case confirms the facts that were established by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, in his letter of 15 June 1997 addressed to you.

Mr. Tariq Aziz concluded his aforesaid letter by asserting that in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council Iraq has the right to safeguard its national security. It hopes the Security Council, which has always stressed the necessity of respecting Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, will adopt a concrete position embodying that recognition and balancing the rights of the Special Commission and Iraq's legitimate rights. Iraq also hopes that the Council will direct the Special Commission to act within the limits of its mandate and carry out its work in a business-like and professional manner and without seeking to prolong it. The Commission should complete its work and submit its final report to the Security Council stating the firm fact that Iraq has discharged all its obligations under section C of resolution 687 (1991).

The inspection team went to great lengths on 18 June 1997 to fabricate pretexts and allegations concerning the presence of nuclear and other materials in a telephone exchange, a cinema, a theatre, a student dormitory, and a cinematographic store and laboratory. It then affronted the places of worship of Iraqi Christians and inspected Saint Joseph's Monastery, Saint Paul's Church and the Sayyidat al-Sanabil Convent on the same prefabricated pretexts. We therefore call upon you and, through you, upon all who are fair-minded among the

members of the Security Council, to do justice by Iraq by putting an end to the deliberate pattern of unprofessional conduct on the part of the Special Commission. The Special Commission should submit its final report to the Security Council stating the firm fact that Iraq has discharged all its obligations under section C of resolution 687 (1991), and the Security Council should proceed on an urgent basis to consider the implementation of paragraph 22 of that resolution.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Attachment

PHONE NO. : 7173389 Jun. 19 1997 11:07PM P01

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UNSCOM

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMISSION

S/C Res 687 (1991)

Reference: N15/IAEA

NOTIFICATION OF INSPECTION SITE IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 687 & 715 (1991)

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Pursuant to the provisions of Part C of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 687 & 715 (1991), the Special Commission has designated for inspection an area in and around an establishment/facility in the vicinity of:

33-15 N 044-30 E

Rolf Ekéus
Executive Chairman
Office of the Special Commission

New York
26 January, 1997

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/474
19 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 12 JUNE 1997 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b)(i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On 10 June 1997, the Government of Iraq denied a Commission inspection team access to a site designated for inspection. On 12 June 1997, access to two further designated sites was denied. The Commission's staff informed the Iraqi representatives that these denials were in violation of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions, the Joint Programme of Action and the modalities for inspection of sensitive sites. This was acknowledged by the Iraqi officials who, nonetheless, confirmed the refusal of access, stating they were doing so on the highest authority.

I am awaiting the full details from the Chief Inspectors of the inspection teams involved of the events surrounding these denials before presenting a full report to the Council. However, in the light of the events recorded in the first paragraph, the Commission is concerned that a decision has been taken by the Government of Iraq to prevent full implementation of the Commission's mandate.

I would be most grateful if you could bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council. I will be ready, at the middle of next week, to present an oral report to the Council with all the necessary details, if the Council so wishes.

(Signed) Rolf EKÉUS
Executive Chairman

97-16687 (E) 190697

UNITED NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/475
19 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 JUNE 1997 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

My attention has been drawn to a letter of 18 June 1997 (S/1997/473), addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning the activities on that day of a team composed of personnel from the monitoring groups of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Special Commission stationed in Baghdad. Given the various allegations made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I believe it is necessary for me to provide an account of what, in fact, took place so far as the Commission's participation was concerned.

On 18 June 1997, an inspection was planned to take place in the Za'faraniya district in Baghdad. The Chief Inspector was provided by IAEA, while the Commission's inspectors came from the export/import and chemical groups. The mission was to undertake an inspection of an area designated by the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission. It will be recalled that, under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the right to make such designations is vested solely in the Commission, which makes such designations on its own behalf and on behalf of IAEA when requested. These designations (notice of inspection sites), which are provided to the Iraqi counterparts, do not identify specific structures, instead providing the geographic coordinates of the area to be inspected. Such designations are made only in respect of areas which have not previously been inspected. In this case the area is part of a neighbourhood which comprises a number of buildings and facilities of a very diverse nature which were previously designated and are currently under monitoring.

The team inspected certain structures within the geographic coordinates provided in the designation. However, the Commission's sub-teams did not participate in the visit to the religious buildings referred to in the Foreign Minister's letter, instead inspecting other structures and buildings in the designated area. I understand that IAEA will be writing to you to explain more fully the nature of the participation of its personnel in the events referred to by the Foreign Minister.

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97-16693 (E) 190697

In the light of the foregoing, the Commission rejects the unwarranted allegations made by the Foreign Minister regarding the designation made by the Executive Chairman and the conduct of the Commission's personnel.

(Signed) Rolf EKÉUS
Executive Chairman

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/51/928
S/1997/476
19 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 19 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention new and serious Turkish actions in violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus. On 16 June 1997, nine Turkish warships sailed and docked at the closed ports of Famagusta and Kyrenia, in the occupied part of Cyprus. According to information received by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus two Turkish navy vessels, two submarines and one destroyer docked in the port of Famagusta, and three missile boats and one submarine docked in Kyrenia's harbour.

On behalf of my Government, I wish to protest strongly these illegal actions, which are in violation of the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as United Nations resolutions, including binding decisions of the Security Council on Cyprus. Furthermore, following the Turkish invasion in 1974 and the occupation of a large part of territory of the Republic of Cyprus, the ports of Famagusta, Karavostasi and Kyrenia were declared closed by the Government to all vessels under law 165 of 1 October 1974.

Moreover, I wish to stress that these new Turkish actions are especially provocative, since they take place at a time when efforts are being made by you to hold direct talks between President Clerides and the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Denktash.

I should be grateful if Your Excellency would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos ANASTASSIADES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations

97-16679 (E) 190697

UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/186
S/1997/477
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ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Items 39 and 148 of the
preliminary list*
OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 18 June 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter of protest dated 20 May 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi. It concerns the announcement made by Mr. Abdullah Muhammad Hashim, assistant to the Minister of Roads and Transport for the construction and development of seaports and airports in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and published by the newspaper Resalat in its issue for 12 May 1997, which constitutes a violation to the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the Greater Tunb island.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 39 and 148 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalid Khalifa AL-MUALLA
Chargé d'affaires a.i

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

Note verbale dated 20 May 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi and would like to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the construction of a dock on the Greater Tunb island, which belongs to the United Arab Emirates and has been occupied by Iran since 1971, as announced by Mr. Abdullah Muhammad Hashim, assistant to the Minister of Roads and Transport for the construction and development of seaports and airports in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a statement to the newspaper Resalat published in its issue for 12 May 1997, constitutes a clear breach of the principles of international law and a blatant violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the Greater Tunb island. No rights over the island thereby accrue to the Islamic Republic of Iran under the established principles of international law that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible and that occupation does not confer on the occupying Power any rights over the territories forcibly subjected by it.

Accordingly, the Government of the United Arab Emirates wishes to convey to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that it strongly protests against this illegal action. It regards this and all previous actions taken by the Iranian Government on the occupied Greater Tunb island, as well as on the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, as unwarranted acts of provocation that do not confer on the Islamic Republic of Iran any rights over these islands.

The United Arab Emirates reaffirms its sovereignty over the three islands and its refusal to recognize the sovereignty over them of any other State. It retains all of its rights in respect of these islands.

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Security Council

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S/1997/478
19 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

TWENTY-THIRD PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1100 (1997) of 27 March 1997, by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 30 June 1997 and requested me to keep the Council informed on a regular basis of the situation in Liberia, and, in particular, of significant developments in the electoral process, and to submit a report by 20 June 1997. The report provides an update on developments in Liberia since my previous report dated 19 March 1997 (S/1997/237), and contains an assessment of the status of preparations for the forthcoming elections.

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. Since my last report, the electoral process in the country has shown significant progress. The Liberian Independent Elections Commission, which is responsible for organizing and conducting the elections, was installed on 2 April 1997, while the reconstituted Supreme Court, which is to adjudicate in electoral disputes, was installed on 7 April, in each case about one month later than anticipated by the schedule set by the Committee of Nine of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). These delays caused preparations for the elections to fall behind schedule, and cast serious doubt on prospects for holding credible elections by 30 May 1997, the date originally set.

3. UNOMIL and the Monitoring Group of ECOWAS (ECOMOG), however, have continued to make their own preparations for the elections. As explained in section IV below, UNOMIL civilian electoral observers have been deployed to all 13 counties of Liberia, and preparations are under way to deploy the 200 observers envisaged in my report of 19 March to observe the election itself. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has started repatriating those Liberians in the subregion who wish to return immediately to participate in the elections. Meanwhile, the implementation of bridging programmes has gathered pace and arrangements are being made to ensure that these programmes

are followed up by reintegration activities. At the same time, ECOMOG has continued to receive additional troops and to extend its presence, thus ensuring continued security and encouraging the civilian population to move freely throughout the country. ECOMOG deployment in areas along the borders with the neighbouring countries has also encouraged some refugees to return to those areas, albeit in small numbers.

4. Between 24 and 27 April, an ECOWAS assessment team led by the Foreign Minister of Nigeria, Chief Tom Ikimi, and comprising the Foreign Minister of Guinea, Mr. Lamine Camara, and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Ghana, Mr. Victor Gbeho, visited Liberia to evaluate the status of the electoral preparations. Following extensive consultations with the Liberian Council of State, the Independent Elections Commission, the registered political parties and UNOMIL, the assessment mission focused on the electoral package presented by the Elections Commission, consisting of a draft electoral law, a code of conduct for political parties, a calendar of electoral activities and a budget.

5. The assessment team made a number of decisions designed to underline ECOWAS determination to exercise close control over the electoral process. It decided to reduce the $9.5 million electoral budget proposed by the Elections Commission to $5.4 million, consisting of $4.7 million for the operational aspects and $700,000 for personnel costs.

6. Concerning the timetable for the elections, the Elections Commission requested the assessment team to reconsider the 30 May election date set under the Abuja Agreement (S/1995/742, annex), and indicated that 74 more days would be required in order to prepare adequately for the elections. The registered Liberian political parties also unanimously requested the ECOWAS team to extend the electoral schedule, many of them expressing a preference for postponing the elections until October 1997.

7. Having carefully reviewed the situation, UNOMIL also took the view that it would not be possible to hold credible elections on 30 May. Accordingly, on 1 May, I wrote to General Sani Abacha, Chairman of ECOWAS and Head of State of Nigeria, to express my concern that insufficient time was being allowed to complete the technical aspects of the election process and that a minimum of 70 days from the enactment of the electoral law would be required for that purpose. Taking note of the assessment team's decision that ECOWAS should assume greater responsibility for the physical and logistical aspects of the electoral process, including transportation and the procurement of electoral materials, I strongly emphasized the importance of early, detailed and meticulous planning by ECOWAS in carrying out those tasks. I also recalled the need to establish a joint coordination mechanism, as outlined in my report to the Security Council of 19 March, in order to ensure adequate coordination between the United Nations and ECOWAS in the preparation for the elections. I also wrote to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to invite OAU to participate in the mechanism.

8. In a letter dated 5 May, the Chairman of ECOWAS apprised me of the outcome of the assessment mission and informed me that the assessment team had recommended a 30-day extension of the electoral calendar, on which he was consulting with other ECOWAS Heads of State with a view to taking the necessary

decision. He also stated that the assessment team had noted that a substantial number of refugees still remained outside the country and he renewed the call for the United Nations to facilitate the immediate return to Liberia.

9. On 6 and 13 May, informal consultations were held in New York with the participation of ECOWAS member States and major donors to discuss preparations for the proposed reconvening at the ministerial level of the Special Conference to Support the Peace Process in Liberia. At those consultations, a consensus emerged that security conditions in Liberia were conducive to the holding of elections and that the objective was to hold credible, free and fair elections at the earliest date that was technically feasible. It was recognized, however, that it was no longer technically feasible to hold elections on 30 May and that a credible electoral calendar needed to be established. The participants also agreed that it was in the interest of all to increase the flow of information and to improve coordination among all partners involved in preparations for the elections. Accordingly, my Special Representative, the mediation team and donor representatives in Monrovia established a standing committee to meet regularly in Monrovia to facilitate the resolution of the technical questions arising during the electoral preparations. In addition to representatives of UNOMIL and the concerned United Nations agencies, the standing committee comprises the Elections Commission and the members of the mediation team, that is, the Ambassadors of Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the United States of America, as well as donor representatives. I informed the Chairman of ECOWAS of these developments in a further letter to him dated 9 May.

10. An Extraordinary Summit Meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine on Liberia was convened in Abuja on 21 May to decide on the date of the Liberian elections, as well as on the electoral law and the budget. The Summit was preceded on 16 May by a Ministerial Meeting of the Committee of Nine and by consultations among the Chairman of ECOWAS, the leaders of the registered Liberian political parties, the signatories to the Abuja Agreement, and members of the Independent Elections Commission.

11. In the course of these consultations, the political parties proposed amendments to the draft electoral law to include the use of a single ballot for presidential and legislative candidates, and the counting of ballots at the polling stations rather than in a centralized location. The Summit Meeting approved the electoral law as amended by the political parties. It also approved the extension of the tenure of the Liberian Council of State, as presently constituted, until the inauguration of the new Government.

12. The Summit decided on an effective extension of the electoral schedule by some 60 days, that is, that the election for the legislative assembly and the presidency should take place on 19 July, with the new Government to be inaugurated on 2 August. However, should a run-off election for the presidency be necessary, it would be held on 2 August, with the inauguration of the new Government taking place on 16 August. The Summit also approved the reduced electoral budget of $5.4 million.

13. On 12 June, the Special Conference to Support the Peace Process in Liberia was reconvened in Geneva at the ministerial level, with the participation of concerned Ministers from the Netherlands (representing the European Union (EU)),

Liberia, Nigeria (on behalf of ECOWAS), Zimbabwe (representing OAU), Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, and under the chairmanship of the United Nations. Participants pledged in excess of $15 million in contributions to the Liberian peace process, including the electoral process, much of which has already been disbursed. In particular, the Government of Ghana pledged $300,000 for the elections; EU pledged $3.7 million to cover the priority items listed in the electoral budget; the Government of Japan announced that it was considering the possibility of leasing a helicopter to support the electoral process; the United States Government announced its contribution of $7.4 million for the electoral process and additional support for ECOMOG, including communications equipment and two additional helicopters for the peacekeeping force; the Government of Denmark will provide and transport ballot boxes and support the training of trainers; and OAU announced that it had donated $200,000 for the elections. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia announced that the Liberian National Transitional Government had so far disbursed $325,000 towards the administrative costs of the elections, as well as providing housing for the elections commissioners. The Governments of Belgium, Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland announced that they would send at least three electoral observers each. Chief Ikimi expressed readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in a joint coordination mechanism. Assistant Secretary-General Ibrahima Fall, who chaired the Special Conference, has been discussing the modalities of the mechanism with Chief Ikimi. Proposals to reconvene the Special Conference, either before the elections or upon the installation of the new Government, are under discussion.

14. A total of 12 political parties that are expected to participate in the elections have registered with the Independent Elections Commission. These parties have been engaged in selecting their candidates for the presidential elections and some have established offices in various counties.

15. Mr. Anthony Nyakyi ended his assignment as my Special Representative for Liberia on 16 April 1997. He was succeeded by Mr. Tuliameni Kalomoh, who arrived in Monrovia on 28 April. I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Nyakyi for the excellent services he rendered in the cause of peace in Liberia, in particular for the important contribution he made to the achievements of UNOMIL.

III. MILITARY ASPECTS

Security situation

16. Relative peace and stability have continued to prevail throughout Liberia and the country is now considered secure enough for elections to take place nationwide. Although a few minor incidents have occurred in various parts of the country, ECOMOG has been able to control the security situation quickly and effectively in all cases.

Disarmament

17. Since the end of the official disarmament period on 9 February 1997, a total of 132 ex-fighters have disarmed voluntarily at Rivercess, Grand Kru and Grand Gedeh counties where disarmament could not take place earlier because of

the inaccessibility of these areas. As at 13 June, the cumulative total of arms and ammunition recovered and verified by military observers was 10,036 weapons and more than 1.24 million assorted pieces of ammunition, while approximately 3,750 weapons had been reported surrendered to ECOMOG outside the official disarmament sites. In addition, ECOMOG cordon-and-search operations have led to the recovery of approximately 3,500 weapons and 150,000 pieces of ammunition. Major recent recoveries include heavy artillery from Butlo in Nimba county, mortars and anti-tank guns from Lofa county and substantial quantities of small arms from Bong Mines, Buchanan, Monrovia, Tubmanburg, Bo Waterside and Voinjama.

ECOMOG and UNOMIL deployment

18. During the period under review, ECOMOG has continued to receive considerable reinforcements. In April, 320 troops from Burkina Faso, 321 from Niger and a 35-man medical team from Côte d'Ivoire arrived, with a further 250 troops from Benin joining ECOMOG in May. These reinforcements have brought ECOMOG strength to approximately 11,000 troops deployed at 48 different locations. Although some ECOMOG troops have been redeployed to Sierra Leone in connection with the crisis in that country, my Special Representative and the Chief Military Observer believe that ECOMOG at present retains sufficient capability to ensure security for the forthcoming elections in Liberia. UNOMIL also assisted in the evacuation of United Nations and other international personnel from Sierra Leone.

19. UNOMIL has completed its planned deployment at 16 sites, covering all the 13 counties of Liberia (see annex and map). The field stations established during the disarmament process have been successfully converted into electoral observation bases. Each of these bases is manned jointly by one or two civilian electoral observers and four or five military observers, who are continuing to undertake reconnaissance missions in the countryside to gather information on terrain and infrastructure and to identify population centres. This information has been made available to the Elections Commission for use in its planning for the forthcoming elections.

IV. ELECTORAL PROCESS

UNOMIL preparations for elections

20. As indicated in section II above, preparations for the Observer Mission's observation of the elections are on schedule. Its Electoral Unit has been strengthened to its full complement of four electoral officers. A total of 34 civilian electoral observers have joined the 78 military observers outside Monrovia to form medium-term electoral observer teams, which are operating from 16 observation bases in the field, and in Monrovia. In addition to the activities described above, the medium-term observer teams are reporting on the activities of political parties and preparing for the arrival of the additional observers to be deployed during the election itself. UNOMIL is also working with other observer groups to ensure that there will be efficient coordination of the electoral observation process. The UNOMIL communications network will be shared with electoral observers up to and during the polling period.

21. While earlier consultations had indicated that the vote count would be centralized, the electoral package approved in Abuja contained a provision for decentralized counting, to be conducted at polling centres. This increases the need for the "quick count" procedure, which I had stipulated in my last report as part of the verification of the counting process. For that purpose, I intend to recruit an expert consultant to the UNOMIL Electoral Unit for the period necessary to organize and conduct the "quick count" exercise.

22. The decision to decentralize counting also has an impact on the number of observers needed for the polling period. As noted in my last report, 200 observers will be deployed for the polling period. However, it was anticipated at that time that, should there be a presidential run-off election, an appropriate level of observation could be ensured by about 50 locally recruited international observers, thus reducing costs as far as possible. However, the decision to conduct counting at polling centres instead of at a central location will require the deployment of a larger number of observers. UNOMIL therefore proposes to deploy up to 200 observers for the run-off election, should one be required.

23. UNOMIL helicopters and vehicles are being shared with the Elections Commission to facilitate movement of personnel in the field. UNOMIL observation base personnel are assisting staff of the Independent Elections Commission in undertaking assessment missions and are providing transport, communications and general support. However, while UNOMIL assets are being deployed to assist the Commission, UNOMIL does not have the logistical capacity to act as the primary support mechanism for election operations. It will therefore provide technical expertise to the Elections Commission in the logistical planning stages, and coordinate with ECOMOG and the major donors in implementing the logistical plan for the elections.

24. The Public Information Unit of UNOMIL is helping to provide civic information on registration and voting to the Liberian electorate. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and USAID have provided some 5,500 non-battery shortwave radios, which are being distributed by the non-governmental organization Search for Common Ground to community centres, churches, schools and electoral observers in the Liberian hinterland, where there would otherwise be no access to the media. The voter information campaign also features a cartoon series stressing such issues as the secrecy of the vote. A newsletter on the electoral process is being published and a UNOMIL-originated radio programme is now being aired on Liberian radio stations.

25. UNDP has provided the services of a demographer and two electoral experts to assist in voter registration, voter education and the management of the electoral process. UNDP has also provided vehicles, computers, communications equipment and an electricity generator. The procurement of motorcycles and office supplies is under way.

Activities of the Independent Elections Commission

26. The Independent Elections Commission has completed the recruitment of about 80 per cent of the registration staff in Monrovia, to be complemented by local recruitment in the counties, which is now under way. It has also recruited and

trained the electoral magistrates, who are responsible for coordinating the elections at the regional level and for identifying premises for registration and polling centres. The Commission intends to establish magistrate's offices in each county, with additional offices to be headed by assistant magistrates at the sub-county level. The new magistrates and their staff have already been deployed in the counties with the assistance of UNOMIL and the International Foundation for Elections Systems.

27. The Elections Commission has held workshops with the political parties and the media in Monrovia to improve understanding of the electoral package and has set up an interparty committee to serve as a forum for political party liaison. The Commission has also established a series of committees to handle each aspect of the electoral process, bringing together international technical assistance staff at the working level.

28. The Independent Elections Commission has announced a revised electoral work plan, which includes the following:

29 May	Beginning of the civic education programme
9 June	Publication of provisional lists of parties/coalitions/alliances
16 June	Beginning of the electoral campaign
24 June	Beginning of voter registration
3 July	End of voter registration
11 July	Publication of the final voters' roll
18 July	End of the electoral campaign
19 July	Polling and counting
20 July	Announcement of the election results.

Coordination

29. The agreement of ECOWAS to take part in a joint electoral coordination mechanism with the United Nations, as announced at the Special Conference to Support the Peace Process in Liberia in Geneva on 12 June, will greatly assist in the harmonization of electoral preparations. In my last report, I identified four main tasks to be achieved through United Nations/ECOWAS joint coordination of the elections. The new procedures, which are now to be worked out between the United Nations and ECOWAS, will be essential for the performance of these tasks, that is, ensuring that operational requirements are met and that the electoral process remains on track; coordinating the deployment, logistics and security arrangements for international observers; identifying gaps and needs in the electoral process; and the joint certification of the election results.

Parameters for verification

30. I believe two main factors will determine whether the Liberian elections are free and fair. The first is the creation of a level playing field for the conduct of free and fair elections and the second is the efficiency and credibility of the organization and conduct of the elections by the Independent

Elections Commission. UNOMIL's assessment of the electoral process will therefore be based on the following parameters:

(a) Factors determining a free and fair electoral environment include continued security to facilitate freedom of movement and freedom from intimidation; the secrecy of the ballot; access by all political parties to the media, in particular to radio time; the credibility of the voter education campaign; the extent to which political parties are able to campaign in all areas; and freedom for people to join or refuse to join political parties;

(b) Operational benchmarks defining the work of the Independent Elections Commission include the timely setting up of functional regional offices; the timely procurement and delivery of the necessary materials; the timely and successful completion of voter registration; the establishment of sufficient numbers of polling sites, properly distributed to ensure adequate coverage of the voting population; the security of the ballot boxes and other sensitive materials; and the accuracy of the count.

Technical advice and assistance provided by donors

31. In addition to UNOMIL and UNDP, the European Commission and ECOWAS have provided technical and logistical assistance to the Independent Elections Commission. Technical advisers from these organizations work according to the Commission's requirements and currently assist the Commission in all aspects of its work. The International Foundation for Election Systems is assisting in the formulation and production of procedures governing registration and polling, materials design and procurement, as well as the provision of logistical support; the European Commission has provided headquarters offices and regional office support, as well as logistics support; ECOWAS has provided technical advice on a range of electoral issues; and Nigeria has made available vehicles at Commission headquarters for use by the commissioners.

V. HUMAN RIGHTS

32. During the period under review, UNOMIL has conducted a series of missions throughout Liberia in order to assess the general human rights situation. During those missions, no major violations of human rights have been confirmed. However, the Council of State has established a committee chaired by the Minister of Justice to investigate an incident in which a ceremony recently held by a group of Muslims visiting their homes in Bong county was disrupted by violence. UNOMIL is conducting an investigation into recent widely circulated allegations that one person was killed and others injured during a cordon-and-search operation undertaken by ECOMOG soldiers at the Lajoy gold mine in Grand Cape Mount county. I have requested my Special Representative to raise these allegations with ECOWAS.

33. The Liberian human rights community has been strengthened with the creation of at least four new human rights organizations, all of which collaborate with UNOMIL and function as members of the Liberia Human Rights Centre. The Centre has received a grant from a major international donor for setting up its offices and will commence programming shortly. In the interim, individual member

organizations continue to carry out a variety of programmes, monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation, hosting civic education seminars, workshops and radio broadcasts, providing legal aid services and monitoring the electoral process as it unfolds. Financial assistance from international donors to Liberian human rights organizations has been minimal and at best slow. UNOMIL has sought the cooperation of donors in rectifying this situation.

34. In pursuance of its capacity-building mandate, UNOMIL, in collaboration with a Member State, hosted a two-day seminar on 1 and 2 May for 55 representatives of Liberian human rights and related organizations. At the request of participants, additional seminars are planned as activities of the Liberia Human Rights Centre.

35. I am also aware of the statement made by the Chairman of the Commission for Human Rights at its fifty-third session, in which he urged the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat to provide, at the request of the Government of Liberia, advisory services and technical assistance to enable it to revive the ailing human rights structures and mechanisms. I intend to consult with the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on ways and means of giving effect to the Commission's views.

VI. HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS

36. Following the completion of the disarmament and demobilization exercise and the deployment of ECOMOG to most parts of the country, relief organizations are now able to operate in all 13 counties of Liberia. At this time last year, populations at risk could only be reached in less than half of the counties.

37. While access has expanded, humanitarian needs have not decreased. Throughout the country, the humanitarian community is encountering damaged infrastructure and resident populations badly in need of the most basic assistance, that is, food, shelter, health, water and sanitation, education and agriculture. This continued need is reflected by the delivery by the World Food Programme (WFP) of 9,281 metric tons of food commodities to 644,729 beneficiaries during the reporting period. The United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Office reports that out of the 368 pre-war public and private health facilities, today only 25 per cent are functioning; the Monrovia water supply is operating at less than 10 per cent of its capacity; access to safe drinking-water in rural Liberia stands at less than 12 per cent; access to proper sanitation in rural Liberia stands at one per cent; and 60 per cent of children of school age are not in class. These are but a few examples of the persistent and urgent humanitarian needs in Liberia. A key humanitarian challenge is now also the repatriation of what UNHCR estimates to be 660,000 refugees in the subregion and the resettlement of 750,000 internally displaced persons. The onset of the rainy season is likely both to aggravate the humanitarian situation and to hinder access, as many newly opened roads may not withstand the rains.

38. The United Nations and non-governmental organizations are responding in their respective areas of expertise. Humanitarian activities have generally been of two types, of which the first comprises activities undertaken in

response to acute crises. The second type of intervention includes more forward-looking activities that meet immediate needs while preparing for rehabilitation activities. As the peace process continues to evolve positively, humanitarian activities will focus increasingly on facilitating the voluntary return home of the internally displaced and Liberian refugees. UNHCR continues to prepare for and facilitate voluntary repatriation and is planning to establish field offices in Vahun, Voinjama, Gbarnga, Zwedru and Harper to carry out protection and monitoring activities. Population returns have so far been sporadic. UNHCR has organized visits to Liberia by delegations of Liberian refugees to enable them to ascertain for themselves the conditions now prevailing in Liberia.

39. A United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for Liberia was launched in December 1996 requesting $31.2 million for priority humanitarian interventions. As at 1 June 1997, the appeal had only received some 20 per cent of the total requested. The appeal was due to expire on 30 June, but, given the continued need for humanitarian assistance just described and the lack of financial support, will be extended through the end of the year.

Bridging activities

40. Implementation of bridging activities continues and has now produced short-term employment or training opportunities for some 15,000 demobilized ex-combatants out of the 21,315 demobilized during the disarmament and demobilization exercise. A similar number of civilians have also been engaged by these community-based, labour-intensive projects, which cover a broad range of activities, including public works, support for small-scale quick-impact enterprises, strengthening of capacities and infrastructure in the health and education sectors, civic education, counselling and skills development.

41. The United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Office whose task is the overall coordination of bridging activities, has approved 47 projects of implementing partners, directly engaging approximately 10,000 ex-fighters and civilians. UNDP, through a project being carried out by the United Nations Office for Project Services, has undertaken 110 projects, focusing on public works, creating temporary jobs for also approximately 10,000 ex-fighters and civilians. An International Labour Organization (ILO) project, funded by UNDP, has initiated short-term training for more than 1,700 ex-fighters and civilians. The European Commission is also very active through its 128 micro-projects, 75 of which are ongoing, which have provided short-term employment for almost 8,000 ex-fighters and civilians. The African American Institute undertook a mission in early May that identified 40 high-ranking officers of the disbanded factions who will be offered short-term UNDP training scholarships. Furthermore, over 3,000 former child fighters are benefiting from activities supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children Fund (UK) and national non-governmental organizations.

42. The establishment of the bridging programmes was based on the need to keep ex-combatants gainfully occupied while reintegration programmes were being developed and thus contribute to the promotion of an environment conducive to sustained peace and the holding of elections. These objectives have already been largely achieved. It was projected that bridging activities would be

completed on 30 June, at which time reintegration programmes would enter into effect. Ongoing bridging activities will now be dovetailed into the reintegration programme. As indicated in section VII below, on 12 May UNDP approved $4.75 million to support the reintegration programme. Preparatory work is under way for the quick launching of the programme, which will inherit the resources and equipment of ongoing UNDP-funded bridging projects. UNDP and UNHCR have agreed to collaborate and, wherever feasible, to establish joint implementation units to assist the reintegration of returning refugees and internally displaced persons. A National Reintegration Steering Committee established by the Ministry of Planning on 25 March 1997 will form the cornerstone of the recovery process through a rural-based, non-targeted resettlement and reintegration programme over a two-year period.

VII. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

Status of reintegration programmes

43. In December 1996, the United Nations system inter-agency programme for community reintegration and peace-building for Liberia, coordinated by UNDP, was launched jointly with and linked to the above-mentioned United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for Liberia. The programme is designed to lead to the resumption of the development process. So far there has been a very limited response from donors. However, UNDP has registered pledges from donors for cost-sharing resources in the amount of $3.04 million in support of reintegration activities and for bridging activities. These consist of $500,000 from the United States Government and $2.54 million from the Government of the Netherlands. UNICEF has received $2 million from EU for primary education and an additional $1 million from the United States Government for the reintegration of war-affected youth.

44. On 12 May, UNDP approved $4.75 million for reintegration activities. Efforts are under way to mobilize additional resources of $5.25 million to bring the resources available to the reintegration programme to about $10 million. However, this will still be much less than the $46.91 million called for in the inter-agency programme.

45. United Nations agencies are playing a key role in the restoration of capacity in public institutions that are considered critical for the reintegration and the recovery process. The Ministries of Planning and Economic Affairs, Agriculture, Health and Social Welfare, Commerce and Education, the Budget Bureau and local selected non-governmental organizations have received initial logistical support to make them functional again. UNDP is also promoting the return of expatriate nationals through its transfer of knowledge through expatriate nationals (TOKTEN) programme. A similar exercise in the field of health is being undertaken by the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Status of reconstruction efforts

46. Prior to the April 1996 crisis, a joint UNDP/World Bank team fielded a mission to Liberia at the request of the Government. The major objective of the

mission was to support national efforts in developing and implementing a realistic rehabilitation and recovery programme. The April 1996 crisis aborted the process, but it has now been reactivated.

47. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture have fielded nationwide assessment missions for the preparation of a national master plan for reintegration in agriculture.

VIII. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

48. In its report of 9 June 1997 to the General Assembly (A/51/504/Add.2), the Fifth Committee recommended the appropriation of $20,447,100 gross to be assessed at a monthly rate of $1,703,925 gross ($1,576,525 net) for the maintenance of UNOMIL for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, subject to the extension of the mandate of UNOMIL by the Security Council.

49. Therefore, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNOMIL, as recommended in section IX below, the cost of maintaining the Observer Mission during the extension period will be limited to the rates indicated above.

50. As at 31 May 1997, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNOMIL special account since the inception of the Mission amounted to some $17.6 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations on 31 May 1997 was some $1,694 million.

51. With regard to the Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Cotonou Agreement in Liberia, total contributions received as at 31 May 1997 amounted to some $25 million, with authorized expenditure totalling some $24.9 million.

IX. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

52. The peace process in Liberia is now approaching its culminating stage, the holding of free and fair elections for a new, democratically elected Government. It is a credit to all concerned that Liberia is proceeding towards the elections in a calm and peaceful atmosphere that has prevailed since the successful conclusion of the disarmament exercise in February.

53. Despite the time it has taken to arrive at this juncture, the timetable for the remaining phases of the process is uncomfortably tight. While I welcome the flexibility shown by the Summit Meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine in Abuja in extending the electoral period, the extension falls short of the time that under normal circumstances would be needed to ensure the proper performance of all the technical processes involved. The electoral calendar established by the Liberian Independent Elections Commission, which bears the responsibility for the planning and conduct of the election, is a demanding one that will require the closest possible cooperation and coordination among all the actors involved.

54. While I am heartened that evidence of such close cooperation does exist, there is still much to be done. The Special Conference to Support the Peace

Process in Liberia, which reconvened on 12 June in Geneva, has played an invaluable role in bringing together donors, ECOWAS countries and UNOMIL and the United Nations agencies to resolve some persistent questions of coordination and funding. I note with great appreciation the outcome of the 12 June meeting of the Conference and express my gratitude to the Ministers and others who attended, and to the donors who announced pledges. In particular, I welcome the announcement by Chief Tom Ikimi of the intention of ECOWAS to cooperate with the United Nations in the creation of a joint coordination mechanism to harmonize the preparation for and conduct of the elections. This mechanism will enable the United Nations and ECOWAS to speak with one voice in certifying the results of the elections, thus helping to consolidate the new Government that emerges.

55. At present, logistical resources in Liberia are not sufficient to support all the activities associated with the electoral process. In particular, helicopter transportation and, at the county level, vehicles and communications equipment, are lacking. The provision of adequate helicopter transportation in preparation for the elections is essential. Airborne transportation is all the more important in that the elections will be taking place in the middle of the rainy season, at a time when many roads will be impassable and communities cut off by flooding. In this context, I renew my appeal to donors to make further contributions as appropriate, either to ECOMOG or to the United Nations Trust Fund for Liberia.

56. I express my gratitude to UNOMIL for its efforts in the evacuation of United Nations and other international personnel from Freetown. I am deeply concerned at the potential adverse impact of developments in Sierra Leone on the situation in Liberia and will keep the situation there under close review.

57. The calm that has prevailed in Liberia for the past few months, and for which full credit must be given to ECOMOG and its Force Commander, Major-General Victor Malu, cannot be taken for granted. In particular, the possibility of unrest during or after the elections, especially if the results are hotly contested, cannot be ruled out. There is also provision for the conduct of a run-off for the presidency, which, if required, will take place on 2 August and would be followed by the installation of the new Government on 16 August. I believe UNOMIL should remain in Liberia at its current strength until that date in order to continue to demonstrate the commitment of the international community to the peace process in Liberia, and would therefore recommend to the Security Council that the mandate of UNOMIL be extended for a final three-month period until 30 September 1997. In the meantime, I intend to continue to keep the Council fully informed of all important developments in Liberia, especially during and immediately following the elections, with particular reference to the freeness, fairness and credibility of the elections and any changes that might arise in the security situation.

58. The departure of UNOMIL, which I would envisage commencing shortly after the installation of the new Government, will not mean the end of United Nations involvement in Liberia. Indeed, it will be important for the international community to continue to support the democratic and development processes in that country. In addition to the development work that will be continued by the United Nations agencies, I envisage that, subject to the agreement of the incoming Government, the United Nations might maintain a small political office

in Monrovia for a limited period to be agreed upon with the incoming Government and subject to the concurrence of the Security Council. Such a presence would contribute to promoting stability in Liberia as the elected Government consolidates its authority and assumes its responsibilities.

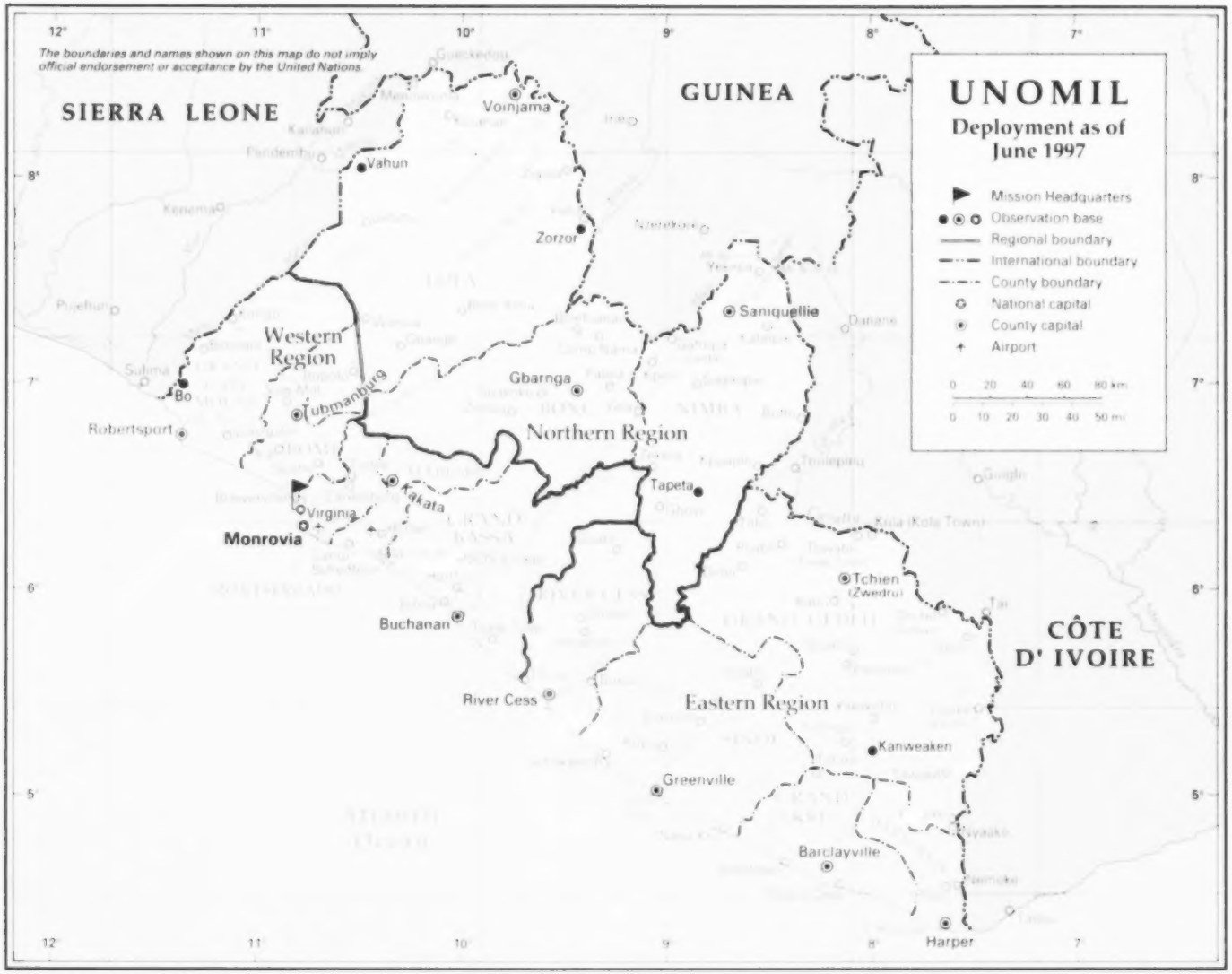
Annex

Composition of the military component of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia as at 15 June 1997

	Military observers	Others[a]	Total
Bangladesh	7	7	14
China	7	–	7
Czech Republic	5	–	5
Egypt	14	–	14
India	14	–	14
Kenya	13	–	13
Malaysia	3	–	3
Nepal	6	–	6
Pakistan	15[b]	–	15
Uruguay	2	-	2
Total	86	7	93

[a] Medical staff.

[b] Includes the Chief Military Observer.



Map No. 3802 Rev. 23 UNITED NATIONS
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UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/479
21 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Chile, Costa Rica, Japan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous relevant resolutions, and in particular its resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, 707 (1991) of 15 August 1991, 715 (1991) of 11 October 1991 and 1060 (1996) of 12 June 1996,

Recalling also the letter from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission to the President of the Security Council of 12 June 1997 (S/1997/474), which reported to the Council the incidents on 10 and 12 June 1997 when access by a Special Commission inspection team to sites in Iraq designated for inspection by the Commission was excluded by the Iraqi authorities,

Determined to ensure full compliance by Iraq with its obligations under all previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 687 (1991), 707 (1991), 715 (1991) and 1060 (1996) to permit immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to the Special Commission to any site which the Commission wishes to inspect,

Stressing the unacceptability of any attempts by Iraq to deny access to any such site,

Reiterating the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Kuwait and Iraq,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Condemns the repeated refusal of the Iraqi authorities to allow access to sites designated by the Special Commission, which constitutes a clear and flagrant violation of the provisions of Security Council resolutions 687 (1991), 707 (1991), 715 (1991) and 1060 (1996);

2. Demands that Iraq cooperate fully with the Special Commission in accordance with the relevant resolutions; and that the Government of Iraq allow the Special Commission inspection teams immediate, unconditional and

unrestricted access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records and means of transportation which they wish to inspect in accordance with the mandate of the Special Commission;

3. Demands further that the Government of Iraq give immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to officials and other persons under the authority of the Iraqi Government whom the Special Commission wishes to interview, so that the Special Commission may fully discharge its mandate;

4. Requests the Chairman of the Special Commission to include in his consolidated progress reports under resolution 1051 (1996) an annex evaluating Iraq's compliance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this resolution;

5. Decides not to conduct the reviews provided for in paragraphs 21 and 28 of resolution 687 (1991) until after the next consolidated progress report of the Special Commission, due on 11 October 1997, after which time those reviews will resume in accordance with resolution 687 (1991);

6. Expresses the firm intention, unless the Special Commission advises the Council in the report referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 that Iraq is in substantial compliance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this resolution, to impose additional measures on those categories of Iraqi officials responsible for the non-compliance;

7. Reaffirms its full support to the Special Commission in its efforts to ensure the implementation of its mandate under the relevant resolutions of the Council;

8. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/480
20 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I write to inform you of my current intentions concerning my mission of good offices in Cyprus.

In a communication dated 17 April 1997 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/320), I stated my determination to pursue intensified efforts to bring about a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue and that I hoped that it would be possible for me to convene direct talks between the two leaders. To that end, I appointed Mr. Diego Cordovez to prepare and assist me in chairing the next round of the inter-communal talks.

I should now like to inform you, and through you the members of the Council, that on 9 June I wrote to the two leaders inviting them to a first session of face-to-face negotiations to take place in the New York area from 9 to 13 July. These face-to-face talks will constitute the beginning of a process which should continue as long as may be needed to achieve agreement on a comprehensive solution. I envisage that this first session will be followed by another one in August and a third session, if necessary.

In order to avoid a prolongation and even a perpetuation of preceding inconclusive dialogues, I firmly believe that there is a need for new approaches and procedures. Inasmuch as the elements needed to work out a settlement are at hand, I believe that it would be most appropriate to embark upon a sustained process of direct negotiations leading to the conclusion of instruments that will constitute a comprehensive settlement.

On 27 January 1997, I wrote to the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities to underline the importance I attached to finding an early settlement of the Cyprus problem. In February and April I had the opportunity to discuss the Cyprus problem with the leaders of the two communities, who expressed their readiness to make further efforts to reach a comprehensive solution. The consultations held between the two leaders and my representatives in recent months have been valuable in clarifying aspects of the task of achieving our common objective of a viable and comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem.

In its resolution 1092 (1996) of 23 December 1996, the Security Council stressed its support for the Secretary-General's mission of good offices and the importance of the concerted efforts to work with the Secretary-General towards an overall comprehensive settlement. In late April 1997 the permanent members of the Security Council also fully supported the early convening, under the aegis of the United Nations, of direct negotiations between the leaders of the two Cypriot communities in order to secure an overall settlement. A number of Governments, as well as the Presidency of the European Union, have appointed special envoys and representatives in support of the efforts carried out within the framework of the good offices mission of the Secretary-General. The active, firm and full support of all concerned, and particularly of the Security Council, is indispensable if the current efforts are to bring results. I therefore ask you, and through you the members of the Council, and all concerned, to urge the parties to embark upon a sustained process of negotiations that will lead to the conclusion of the instruments that will constitute a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue.

I should be grateful if you could bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

UNITED
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Security Council

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S/1997/481
20 June 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to Iraq's continuing cooperation with the Special Commission in performing its functions under the relevant Security Council resolutions. Such cooperation was provided with a framework and was strengthened by the signing of the joint statement of 22 June 1996 (S/1997/436, annex, para. 13) and the approval of a joint programme of action, formulated in a balanced manner, that permits inspection teams, in accordance with the agreed arrangements, to enter sensitive sites of a sovereign character or having a bearing on national security that the Special Commission believes to be relevant to its mandate.

Since the joint statement was signed, many sensitive sites have been inspected without friction. The letter dated 15 June 1997 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/465, annex) gives details of the visits made by the UNSCOM 182 and UNSCOM 194 inspection teams to 69 sites, the great majority of which were of a sensitive character. The two isolated incidents that occurred in special circumstances while the UNSCOM 194 team was at work cannot be interpreted as representing a pattern of obstruction on the part of Iraq.

In this connection, I should like to reaffirm Iraq's commitment to full cooperation with the Special Commission in performing its functions under the relevant Security Council resolutions and to reiterate that Iraq will comply fully with the joint statement and joint programme of action of 22 June 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/51/929
S/1997/482
16 June 1997

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 39
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 51/195 B of 17 December 1996, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it every three months during its fifty-first session on the progress of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA). The report, which covers the second three-month period following the submission on 16 March 1997 of the first progress report (A/51/836-S/1997/240 and Corr.1), is also submitted in response to the request of the Security Council for regular information on the main developments in Afghanistan.

II. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

Military situation

2. A stand-off between the Taliban and the opposition persisted in the first two months of the reporting period, with neither side able to gain significant ground. Sporadic fighting continued in four areas: the entrances to the Salang pass and the Panjshir valley north of Kabul; the Ghorband valley bordering Bamyan and Wardak provinces in the central region; the Badghis province in the north-west; and the eastern provinces of Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar.

3. This military deadlock, however, was broken on 19 May when General Abdul Malik, a key commander of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan (NIMA), staged what at the time appeared to be a pro-Taliban revolt against the NIMA leader, General Rashid Dostum. General Malik, supported by

other NIMA commanders, took control of Mazar-i-Sharif on 24 May. General Dostum fled the city and took refuge in Turkey. General Malik then assumed the leadership of NIMA.

4. Seizing the opportunity, the Taliban went on the offensive. During the night of 26 and 27 May, their forces, reinforced by defections from the opposition, gained control of the Salang pass. The Taliban also infiltrated a large number of their troops, estimated at between 5,000 and 10,000, into the areas north of the Hindu Kush for the first time. Those troops were given free passage through Pul-i-Khumri by the Hezb-i-Wahdat faction controlling the area. Some 3,000 troops proceeded to Mazar, and others went to Kunduz and Takhar provinces. A Taliban delegation, led by Mullah Mohammad Ghaus, flew into Mazar-i-Sharif on 27 May for talks with General Malik on coordination between the two forces. However, the infiltrating Taliban forces immediately started to disarm the NIMA and Hezb-i-Wahdat forces and to impose a strict interpretation of the shariah Islamic law, including the closure of girls' schools and a ban on the employment of women.

5. The already complicated situation took another twist on 27 May when General Malik, apparently alarmed by the Taliban's rush to disarm his troops, decided to change sides again and attack the Taliban forces. The attack, launched by the joint forces of General Malik and the Hezb-i-Wahdat, followed the issuance of Malik's order not to surrender arms to the militia. The Taliban forces, outnumbered and outgunned in a place far from their sphere of influence, withdrew from Mazar on 28 May. The Taliban reportedly suffered a few hundred casualties, while several hundred more were taken prisoner. Mullah Ghaus and Mullah Abdul Razzak, Governor of Herat, were among the high-ranking Taliban officials detained by the forces of General Malik.

6. Capitalizing on the Taliban's retreat from Mazar-i-Sharif, Commander Ahmed Shah Massoud, another pillar of the opposition alliance, broke out of the Panjsher valley and cut off the northern side of the Salang tunnel on the Salang/Pul-i-Khumri road on 28 May. The Massoud forces then, on 29 May, took Golbahar and Jabal-os-Siraj, located at the southern end of the Salang pass, effectively trapping an estimated 2,000 Taliban forces north of the Hindu Kush.

7. The deteriorating situation in Mazar-i-Sharif forced the evacuation of staff of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations from the city. The United Nations evacuated a total of 65 international aid workers, journalists and foreign consul staff on 29 and 30 May, although a number of international non-governmental organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) staff decided to remain in Mazar. the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been closely monitoring possible refugee movement to neighbouring Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

8. The general situation in the north remains tense and fluid as of the writing of this report. Fighting continues at the western, central and northern fronts, as well as to the north of Kabul. In the west, the front line returned to the Bala Murghab in the province of Badghis. In the central region of Hazarajat, the two sides are locked in battle in the Shebar pass lowland areas around Sheik Ali and Lulenji in Ghorband valley, as well as in Wardak province.

There are reports of renewed military reinforcements by the Taliban in an attempt to resume the drive to conquer the north. The opposition is reported to be gearing up for the necessary defence.

9. The military balance appeared to have tilted in favour of the Taliban when General Malik revolted against General Dostum. However, the situation moved back towards its previous status when General Malik changed his allegiance again a few days later. The Taliban maintain their control of about two thirds of Afghanistan. Among the opposition alliance, the forces of General Malik control the five northern provinces: Faryab, Jowzjan, Saripul, Balkh and Samangan, while Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani and Commander Massoud are in control of Kunduz, Takhar and Badakshan, as well as part of Kapisa. Bamyan is under the control of the Hezb-i-Wahbat, led by Mr. Karim Khalili. General Malik announced on 3 June that the opposition alliance, which had been called the Supreme Council for the Defence of Afghanistan, had been renamed the United Islamic Salvation Front of Afghanistan.

Political situation

10. The political situation in Afghanistan during the period under review was dominated by the military events detailed above. The continued hostilities have made the Afghan factions even more uncompromising and unwilling to accept repeated overtures from the United Nations and others for talks on a ceasefire. Despite the setback suffered in Mazar-i-Sharif, the Taliban still appears determined to attempt to overrun the northern region by force. The opposition is strenuously resisting this. Unabated foreign interference in support of one faction or another has also enabled the antagonists to continue on a confrontational path.

11. The Talibans ambition to capture the north of Afghanistan and to gain control of the entire country further aggravated the concerns of a number of countries in the region, many of which view this as a serious threat to their borders and to the peace and security of the region. Countries in the region and beyond have held extensive consultations at various levels on the evolving Afghan situation. Among the issues discussed in those consultations were the territorial integrity of Afghanistan, the possible outflow of refugees, destabilization of the border areas caused by the fighting in Afghanistan and the flow of illegal arms and drugs.

12. The Afghan situation was discussed at the summit meeting of the 10-member Economic Cooperation Organization held at Ashgabat on 13 and 14 May. At the meeting, central Asian countries expressed their concern at the continuing hostilities in Afghanistan and called for a ceasefire and peaceful negotiations among the parties through the mediation of the United Nations.

13. At its Twelfth Ministerial Conference held at New Delhi from 4 to 8 April, the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries declared that a military solution to the Afghan conflict was not a desirable objective and called upon all the Afghan parties "to cooperate with United Nations efforts to facilitate national reconciliation and reconstruction of Afghanistan, specifically to mediate an end to the conflict and facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive settlement to be agreed upon by the Afghan parties, which would include, inter alia, an

immediate and durable ceasefire, the demilitarization of Kabul and the establishment of a fully representative and broad-based transitional government of national unity."

14. The question of the representation of Afghanistan remains pending among States concerned. To date, three countries have recognized the Taliban as the legitimate representative of Afghanistan: Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Some others continue to recognize the government of Professor Rabbani.

Humanitarian situation

15. The humanitarian situation remained serious and was further aggravated by renewed fighting. A rapid food and nutrition assessment was recently undertaken by United Nations agencies in view of reports that a near-famine was likely to develop in Afghanistan. The assessment report concluded that the situation was difficult but not alarming for the short term. The supply of food from Pakistan had resumed after a temporary halt. The report indicated, however, that although food, particularly cereals, was available in the local markets, the purchasing power of the population was extremely limited. The report recommended that the World Food Programme (WFP) should continue until the end of June 1997 the expansion of its safety net scheme under which an additional 110,000 beneficiaries are covered in Kabul, Jalalabad and Kandahar. It also recommended that donors should meet the food aid requirements of WFP, ICRC and non-governmental organizations. A periodic population-based nutrition survey has been recommended to avert high mortality related to malnutrition. A joint mission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and WFP is currently carrying out a comprehensive assessment of crop production and food aid needs in Afghanistan.

16. On 21 April, the first meeting of the Afghanistan Support Group was convened at Geneva by Mr. Jan Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, facilitated by the United Nations with the participation of donor countries and concerned organizations. The Group discussed key assistance issues with a view to sustaining the consensus reached at the International Forum on Assistance to Afghanistan, held at Ashgabat in January 1997. The Group agreed to support the implementation of a strategic framework and a peace-building programme of international assistance, including emergency relief and reconstruction, and to endorse measures to ensure a common approach on the upholding of women's rights. In addition, it was stressed that the political and non-political aspects of United Nations activities should be more closely linked.

17. The issue of women's and girls' rights remains a priority for the United Nations and the international community. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs sent a mission to Afghanistan in April to review the issue. Its recommendations and those of the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator are currently under consideration for the purposes of developing a unified position for all United Nations agencies working in Afghanistan.

III. ACTIVITIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Meeting of States with influence in Afghanistan

18. On 16 April, I convened the second meeting of Member States with influence in Afghanistan in New York, using the formula that had been adopted for the first meeting held in New York on 18 November 1996. The purpose of the meeting was to reassess the situation following recent political and military developments and to discuss how best to promote a negotiated settlement of the conflict and reinforce the United Nations peacemaking efforts. At my request, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Kieran Prendergast, presided over the meeting, at which the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the following Member States participated: China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan. I informed the President of the General Assembly and of the Security Council of the results of the meeting by letters dated 1 May (A/51/886-S/1997/347).

19. Mr. Norbert Holl, Head of UNSMA, briefed the meeting participants on the current situation and his peace efforts in Afghanistan. The meeting demonstrated that consensus continued to exist on the grave dangers of continued armed conflict for the region and on the central role of the United Nations in coordinating efforts to achieve a peaceful solution. The participants uniformly appreciated the efforts of Mr. Holl and of UNSMA to promote agreement on a ceasefire and negotiations between the factions. While recognizing the need for all concerned countries to be involved in the search for peace, they also stressed that such initiatives should be coordinated with the United Nations.

20. All participants agreed that the territorial integrity and unity of Afghanistan must be preserved. They supported the view that the only solution to the conflict remained a national accord based on recognition of the legitimate interests and rights of all the Afghan people. There was consensus that all foreign interference must cease, although, as usual, there were differences on how to achieve that goal. The flow of arms into Afghanistan remained a preoccupation, and a number of countries supported an arms embargo, referring to the action taken in that connection by the European Union. Some called for the Security Council to take similar action. Others, however, expressed doubts about the practical effectiveness of such a measure and whether it could be applied in an even-handed manner.

21. There continued to be widespread support for an international conference in due course to support the results of negotiations. A number of concrete proposals were put forward for an intra-Afghan dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations to be held outside Afghanistan, possibly with Member States as observers. Several participants repeated their offer to host negotiations and/or a conference. Many favoured the expansion of United Nations consultations beyond the leadership of the factions to include broadly representative Afghan communities and personalities. Some particularly supported the intensification of the contacts of Mr. Holl and the Special Mission with concerned States.

22. All participants voiced their distress at the continued plight of the Afghan people, with special attention drawn to women and girls. Several emphasized the connection between a political settlement, rehabilitation, reconstruction and peace-building.

Activities of the Security Council

23. The Security Council continued to be seized of the developments in Afghanistan and requested to be kept regularly informed of the recent events in the country and of the activities of UNSMA. The Council held several consultations on Afghanistan during the period under review, and repeatedly renewed its call to the warring factions for a ceasefire and for peaceful negotiations through the United Nations.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL MISSION

24. Despite the difficulties caused by the prolonged hostilities, UNSMA continued its pursuit of an immediate ceasefire and negotiations, through its good offices, between the warring parties. On 7 April, Mr. Holl briefed me in New Delhi on the recent developments in Afghanistan and on the activities of the Special Mission. He then travelled to New York for consultations with senior Secretariat officials. On 14 April, Mr. Holl briefed the Security Council on Afghanistan and then participated in the second meeting of countries with influence in Afghanistan on 16 April. On 21 April, Mr. Holl took part in a meeting of the Afghanistan Support Group at Geneva, where the issues of continued humanitarian assistance and support to the United Nations peace mission in Afghanistan were the focus of the discussion.

25. Mr. Holl and his team maintained regular contact and held several meetings with the leaders of the Taliban and the opposition alliance, as well as with other Afghan personalities. Mr. Holl's interlocutors among the Taliban leaders included the Taliban acting Foreign Minister Mullah Ghaus, and his deputy, Mullah Jalil Akhund, and the Governor of Kandahar, Mullah Mohammed Hassan. The opposition leaders Mr. Holl met included General Dostum, Commander Massoud, Professor Rabbani and Mr. Khalili. All the meetings were held in Afghanistan.

26. As part of the United Nations peacemaking efforts, Mr. Holl tried to convene a meeting between leaders of the Taliban and the opposition at a mutually agreeable place, such as Islamabad or Ashgabat, in the first part of April 1997. This high-level political meeting was intended to follow up on the two meetings of the Intra-Afghan Working Group, which the Special Mission had convened at Islamabad in January and February 1997. However, despite all efforts, the meeting failed to take place, largely because of differences between the parties on the venue, level and composition of the representation.

27. The Head of the Special Mission held consultations in various capitals in the region and beyond, including Washington, London, Islamabad, Moscow and New Delhi, and met officials of several other interested countries.

V. OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

28. Recent events have proved yet again that the question of Afghanistan is not susceptible to a solution by force. The imposition of one party's will over others, even if it appears to be successful in the very short term, cannot bring lasting peace and stability to the country and the region. This conviction is held not only by me but also by the international community at large. The futility of continued fighting in Afghanistan has been repeatedly underlined by Member States at such occasions as the second meeting of the countries with influence in Afghanistan, as well as by the Security Council.

29. The situation in Afghanistan remains volatile. The warring parties seem bent on resolving their problems through military means rather than through peaceful negotiations and have paid no attention to the many calls by the Security Council, the Head of the Special Mission and other countries for a ceasefire and dialogue. To make matters worse, the conflict is increasingly being fuelled by strong ethnic feelings between the predominantly Pushtun Taliban on the one hand and the Tajiks, Hazaras and Uzbeks, who comprise the opposition camp, on the other. All Member States concerned claim to agree that peace is needed in Afghanistan, but it appears that a number of them are not yet ready to put concerted pressure on the warring factions to stop this senseless civil war.

30. While the warring parties have shown little interest in a peaceful solution, it is noteworthy that some individuals and groups of Afghans have taken initiatives to mobilize moderate, influential Afghans inside and outside Afghanistan who are not directly involved in the ongoing fighting. Insofar as those Afghan initiatives aim to give a voice to the majority in Afghan society who have been silenced by the prolonged warfare, I regard them as very positive. Mr. Holl is closely following up on the initiatives and is reporting to me on a regular basis.

31. The 1997 United Nations Consolidated Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan, which is seeking US$ 133 million, has so far received contributions totalling $26.7 million, which is only about 20 per cent of the requirements. This is not enough for the United Nations to sustain humanitarian activities at a satisfactory level. I should therefore like to urge the international community to provide generous support to the United Nations Appeal for the impoverished people of Afghanistan.

32. Prospects for peace are bleak for the immediate future, but I am determined to pursue a negotiated solution to the Afghan problem. The potential cost of inaction is too high. The overwhelming desire for peace among the majority of the Afghan people is undeniable. I should therefore like to conclude the present report by repeating my appeal to the Afghan factions to come to their senses and to return to the negotiating table immediately. I should also like to call upon the Member States concerned to cease their military support to the warring factions, to address in a more substantive way how best to resolve the Afghan conflict and to coordinate their efforts in this regard closely with the United Nations.

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LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the attached letter that His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of Gabon, has asked me to transmit to you on the current situation in the Republic of Congo.

I should be grateful if you would be kind enough to bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 16 June 1997 from the President of Gabon addressed to the Secretary-General

The International Mediation Committee, meeting on 16 June 1997 in Libreville to consider the serious situation in the Congo, has arrived at the following conclusion:

The ceasefire, which has been in force since 15 June 1997, is particularly fragile. Consequently, in order to avoid a resumption of the fighting, together with the tragic consequences this would have for the people and stability of the country and even of the entire region, it is urgent to invoke forthwith the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations in order to deploy an appropriate force to Brazzaville.

The purpose of this force should be to ensure respect for the ceasefire and to contribute, as far as possible, to the promotion of an environment that is favourable to the efficient preparation and smooth progress of the presidential elections.

The Committee, which stresses the extreme urgency of these measures, has obtained the agreement of all the Congolese parties concerned and the assurance that they will cooperate with the inter-African force.

(Signed) El Hadj Omar BONGO